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Align Helmet with a new Adult Bike Purchase (Value \$40)! (Good March 26 thru April 4, 2015 only) With a New Bike Purchase





M. Aller 1073 Pottsville Pike (Rt. 61), Shoemakersville, PA 19555 next to Kuzan's Hardware www.spokesbikeshop.com 610-562-8900 •

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# 1<sup>for</sup> everyone Sales Event

#### SPECIAL DEALS AND 0% FINANCING ON SELECT MODELS

#### **2015 Corollas**

3



#### LARGEST INVENTORY OF OVER 300 VEHICLES

Sale ends March 31, 2015

#### 2015 Venzas



# **Up To \$5,200 Savings**





#### **HISTORIC OLEY VALLEY**

CHARMING 5-BEDROOM FARMHOUSE built in 1850 and located on 4.71 acres. Family room, living room and dining room have hard-

#### **COUNTRY CUL-DE-SAC**

WELL MAINTAINED 3-BEDROOM CAPE in the Kutztown School District. Main level master bedroom suite. Living room with vaulted ceiling and beautiful view from front window. Family room with corner brick fireplace. Tile flooring in foyer, dining room and kitchen. Back patio with pergola. All major appliances remain. ... \$259.900

#### **JUST LISTED**



HERE'S YOUR CHANCE to own a 3bedroom farmhouse with a barn and cold cellar for under \$150,000. Spacious rooms, main level laundry, walk-up attic for storage, full basement. Over .77 acre yard. Low taxes. Northwestern Lehigh School District.

#### **NEAR PARK AND SCHOOLS**



4-BEDROOM CAPE offers eatin kitchen, nice size living room, 2 bedrooms and bath on main level and 2 bedrooms with hardwood floors on upper level. Home sits on corner lot which includes detached garage with attached carport. ..\$125,000

#### MINUTES TO HAWK MOUNTAIN

14.30 ACRES OF ROLLING MEADOWS AND WOODLAND If you're looking to build a hunter's cabin or your dream home, this may be the spot for you. State Game Land nearby for the avid hunter and Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and the Appalachian Trail for the hiker and nature lover in your family. Wonderful views. . .... \$199.900

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Spring will soon be here, so give Steve's Landscaping a call to get your projects in order! 484-602-5290 or visit Landscaping steve.com to view dis-counts for your 2015 projects.

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#### www.epvmerchandiser.com Spring Time Specials @ Silver Maple Veterinary Clinic! 414 "Your Community Veterinary Clinic" 610-683-7988 14993 Kutztown Road, Kutztown Pa 19530 "Care For Your "Spruce Up For "Pet Parasite Annual Rabies Cat Day" Spring" Awareness Clinic Month" Thursday, March Discount Saturday, April Grooming day! 26th, 2015 April 2015! 25th, 2015 LOW COST vac-10% Off All flea, Tuesday, March \$10.00 31st, 2015 cine & wellness Tick, Heartworm \*Please have all clinic for cats medication Reserve your dogs leashed & "Fast Track" appointment 10% off parasite cats in carriers. today, space is \$38.25 screenings & Rain or shine or limited! Lyme Disease "The Deluxe" snow! testing \$92.50 -----Visit www.SilverMapleVet.com for more details! SERVICES BN'S HOME REPAIR & REMOD-ELING: We Offer Full RCI Home Services from Small Complete Repairs to Homes. Call Us about your oo by Steve Project! Martin Construc-tion 610-683-6120. Haircuts **PET CREMATION Services** 610-682-2262 Peach Tree Cremation Services, LLC, Leesport. 16 N. Home Ave. Topton, Pa. Hours: Mon. thru Fri. 8:30 A.M. - 6 P.M. Sat. 9 A.M. - 2 P.M. Appointments and Walk-Ins Call Derek M.D. Leiben-sperger, 610-926-2737. Family Owned & Operated. SERVICES KELSHNER Kelchner Cleaners HILLTOP Sharpening Ser-CLEANERS vice, Meeting your sharp-ening needs. ½ mile north Dry Cleaning & Coin Laundry of Bowers Hotel, on Bow-ers Road. 395 Bowers Rd., ... for dry cleaning elegance since 1945

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#### DEAN R. ARNER, AUCTIONEER, LLC

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. Location: Andreas Sporting Club, 1 Andreas Rd., Andreas, PA 18211.

Dovetailed crock bench, primitives, crocks & jugs, adv. tins & signs, wartime milk bottles, vintage lighters, wartime games, advertisements, pins & paper memorabilia, vintage toys & games, old bikes, antq. glassware, silver coins, Ig. cents, Indian Head pennies & much more! Check full listing & photos @ www.auctionzip.com ID #21038. DEAN R. ARNER AUCTIONEER, LLC · AY-002077L Ph.: 570-386-3389

-urniture. Car Iruck Seats, Replace foam in cushions, Recover Boat Seats, Make Custom Boat Covers, Restring Day & Night Shades, Restaurant Seats and Misc. Items. Call John Stetzler Upholstering, Hours 8-5 610-488-7760, After 5 484-955-2436. 2485 Shartlesville Rd. Mohrsville. See our website at jjsupholsteri ng.com.

Why STEVES ROADSIDE SERVICE? Rated #1 in the area by Cartalk.com. Since 1991, I've tuned and re-paired cars, trucks, mowers, motorcycles for fuel economy and maximum life. These tough times make good work more valuable than ever. Based in Kuttour conving the in Kutztown, serving the East Penn Valley. Service call only \$32 With This Ad. Whether it's minor or major work, troubleshooting or a battery, call the Garage That Comes to You. 610-618-9702.

\$100 off items \$1,500 to \$3,000 - \$200 off items \$3,000 to \$5,000 \$400 off items \$5,000 to \$8,000 - \$700 off items \$8,000 plus Items not available on sale date will be ordered for future delivery at the discounted price.





DONELESS FORK JIRLOIN KOAST	10. <b>~</b>
<b>III</b> DUTCH POTATO SALAD	lb. \$ <b>2</b> 69

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.b.\$**3**69 Mozzarella Cheese

.b. \$379 PICKLE LOAF .b. \$359

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#### **AUCTION LISTINGS**

03-23-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Banquet Hall	K Loiby P. Colcingor	
03-24-15	Kutztown Produce Auc., 209 Oakhaven Rd., Fleetwood	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
03-25-15		G. Frey & C. Shirk Diefenderfer Auc. Co	
	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Diefenderfer Auc. Gallery Kutztown Produce Auc., 209 Oakhaven Rd., Fleetwood		
03-25-15		G. Frey & C. Shirk	
03-26-15	Oley Valley Auct. Ctr., Rts. 73, 662 & Oley Rd.	J. Haas	
03-26-15	Fogelsville Auc. Ctr., 820 Nursery St.	Zettlemoyer Auc. Co.	
03-27-15	786 Deturksville Rd., Pine Grove	R. Derfler	
03-28-15	Andreas Sporting Club, 1 Andreas Rd.	D. Arner	
03-28-15	3245 Rt. 309, Orefield	Houser Auctioneers	
03-28-15	109 Pine View Rd., Shoemakersville, Perry Twp.	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
03-28-15	715 Furnace Rd., S. Heidelberg Twp., Wernersville	G. Miller IV	
03-30-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Center Court Mtg. Rm.	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
03-31-15	Kutztown Self Storage, 50 Apple Alley, Kutztown		
04-01-15	Upper Milford Fire Co., 6341 Chestnut St., Zionsville		
04-03-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Banquet Hall	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
04-04-15	3629 E. Grant St., Slatington	Houser Auctioneers	
04-04-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt.	D. & T. Wagner	
04-04-15	Fogelsville Auc. Ctr., 820 Nursery St.	Zettlemoyer Auc. Co.	
04-09-15	Oley Valley Auct. Ctr., Rts. 73, 662 & Oley Rd.	J. Haas	
04-10-15	Beltzner Hall, Kutztown	D. Loeb	
04-10-15	Saucony Hall, 85 Industrial Ave., Kutztown	C. Shirk	
04-11-15	1126 Moselem Spring Rd., Perry Twp., Hamburg		
04-11-15	Miller Auction, 31 Hill Alley, Bethel	D. & M. Miller	
04-11-15	1383 & 1385 Pottsville Pike (Rt. 61), Shoemakersville	D. & T. Wagner	
04-13-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Ctr. Crt. Meeting Rm.	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
04-16-15	446 Franklin St., Shoemakersville	C. Shirk	
04-17-15	Beltzner Hall, Kutztown	D. Loeb	
04-17-15	26 Hill Rd., Bernville	D. & T. Wagner	
04-18-15	Kutztown Prod. Auc 209 Oak Haven Rd., Fleetwood		
04-18-15	17 Myrtle Ave., Stoney Creek Mills, Reading	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
04-18-15	622 Hex Hwy. (Old 22), Hamburg	D. & T. Wagner	
04-19-15	15 North 5th St., Shartlesville	D. & T. Wagner	
04-23-15	Oley Valley Auct. Ctr., Rts. 73, 662 & Oley Rd.	J. Haas	
04-23-15	1074 Mountain Rd., Hamburg	D. & T. Wagner	
04-24-15	Saucony Hall, 85 Industrial Ave., Kutztown	C. Shirk	
04-24-15	9 <sup>th</sup> St., Shoemakersville	D. & T. Wagner	
04-25-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt.	B. Folk & T. Lorah	
04-25-15	45 Wagner Rd., Bernville	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
04-28-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Banquet Hall	D. & T. Wagner	
05-01-15	Leesport Farmers Mkt., Banquet Hall	D. & T. Wagner	
05-02-15	2738 W. Philadelphia Ave., (Rt. 73), Oley	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
05-02-15	908 Center Rd., Leesport	C. Shirk	
05-05-15	815 Main St., Shoemakersville	D. & T. Wagner	
05-07-15	386 Belleman's Church Rd., Dauberville	D. & T. Wagner	
05-09-15		K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
05-09-15	6799 Old Rt. 22, Upper Tulpehocken Twp., Bethel	D. & T. Wagner	
05-11-15	Leesport Farmer's Mkt., Banquet Hall	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
05-16-15	550 Heffner Rd., Wernersville	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
05-25-15	801 North Fifth St., Hamburg The above auctions are currently scheduled to ap	K. Leiby, B. Gelsinger	
	the East Penn Valley and/or Northern Berks Merchandiser.		
This listing published courtesy of The Windsor Press, Inc., Hamburg, PA			
		<i>.</i>	

<ul> <li>STEP #4 CHOOSE A PUBLICATION</li> <li>Deadlines For All Classifieds Is Thursday, 5:00 PM)</li> <li>East Penn Valley Merchandiser (Reaches over 40,481 Homes)</li> <li>Northern Berks Merchandiser (Reaches over 31,056 Homes)</li> <li>Both (Cost Would Be Double) (Reaches over 71,537 Homes)</li> </ul>	RATES: REGULAR AD: Up to 20 words \$4.80 per issue per week. Additional words after 20 - 10¢ each COMMERCIAL AD: Up to 20 words \$7.90 per issue
STEP #5 ENTER NUMBER OF WEEKS YOUR AD IS TO RUN: (Please check one box.) Run: 1 Week 2 Weeks 3 Weeks 4 Weeks Enter Starting Date Of Ad	her week Additional words after
Total Amount Paid \$ Check #	Bought for Sale or Resale, Babysitting Service, Help Wanted, Business List
STEP #6 CHOOSE METHOD OF PAYMENT (Payment must accompany ad) We Accept Cash, Check, Money Order, Credit Card Information: NAME ON CARD	ings, etc. UNDER RULES ESTABLISHED BY THE PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RE TIONS ACT, ANYONE WISHING TO SELL OR LEASE RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY OR SEEKING TO HIRE AN EMPLOYEE C MAKE NO REFERENCE IN THE ADVERTISING TO SEX. MARTIAS TUS, AGE. RELIGION, ETHNIC BACKGROUND, PACE, COLOR, DISAB TY, CHILDREN OR SUPPORT ANIMALS. Special Instructions: We will m print your classified ad in the next issue after receipt, but reserve the right hold or the following issue. Please write leigbly. Please use only one word space. Each word in a business name or address will court as one word:
ACCOUNT # EXP. DATE	
TYPE OF CARD: VISA MasterCard Discover SIGNATURE:	Also Look For Our TEAR SHEE *SPECIAL*
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STILL ONLY

<sup>\$</sup>115

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

12 TRACTORS, TRUCKS, TRAILERS, FARM & BLACKTOP EQUIP., BAKER FORKLIFT, FIRE CHIEF TEXACO GAS PUMP, J.D. #4400 DSL. COMBINE W/CAB & #215 15' FLEX HEAD & #444 CORN HEAD (NICE), 1940 WINDSOR CHRYSLER (RESTORED - OFFERED W/RESERVE), LUMBER, ANTIQUES,

6 GUNS & TOOLS Saturday, March 28, 2015 @ 9:00 AM Location: 109 Pine View Rd., Shoemakersville, Perry Twp., Berks Co., PA. Turn off Rt. 61 at Shoemakersville light onto Rt. 662 for 4 mi. & right onto West Shore Dr. for 1 mi.

& right onto Pine View Rd. to auction. Tractors: Int. 986 w/cab, J.D. #4230 quad, J.D. #2940 w/wghts. - 2800 orig. hrs. (All 3 w/gd. rubber), Farmall 460 gas W.F. F.H. Antq. Restored Trcts.: 1945 Farmall "M" hyd. w/rebuilt pwr. pack, 1959 Farmall #340 tricycle w/cultivators P.S.-F.H.-F.A., 1947 Farmall "A" w/belly mwr. & exhaust lift, 1938 Farmall F-20, 1944 J.D. "A" Rollamatic, 1947 Massey Harris #30 (rebuilt eng.), 1948 Cockshutt 30, 1953 Ford Jubilee. **Tillage:** I.H. #710 5-bot. 16" auto. reset play w/clide. bitch 3-pt 3-tooth bush bog subsolier. Int plow w/slide hitch, 3-pt. 3-tooth bush hog subsoiler, Int. #5500 9-tooth chisel plow, Int. #470 12' transport disk; Int. #315 cultimulcher, Brillion P-10 14' transport cultipacker. Planting: J.D. #7000 (like new) 4-row wide conservation corn planter (can be converted to 30"), Int. #510 grain drill w/grass box. Skid Ldr.: 1988 Bobcat #642 gas w/5' Matl's bucket - frost hook - tooth bar. **Misc. Equip.:** Uniferth 275-bu. gravity wgn. w/8-ton Pequea gear, Kill Bros. 275-bu. bin wgn. w/auger & #5025 elec. gear, Fox Brady #1440 14' stalk shredder, 5' 3-pt. Bushog, Westfield 6"x46' transport grain auger, brand new Case I.H. L-360 boom w/54" & 68" buckets, 300-gal. skid fuel tank. **Trks.:** 1971 I.H. #1890 w/16' Midwest dump-33,000 GVW, 1978 I.H. 1600 5-ton dump. **TrIrs. & Blacktop Equip.:** 1-ton asphalt roller, elec. demo. hammer, misc. asphalt tools, 11/2-ton stone plate compactor, 2 tandem-axle 5-ton trirs., (1 w/drop down ramps). Misc. Farm Items, Tools & Antqs.: 3-pt. fast-hitch adapter, dump hay rake, 30 ton hyd. press, auto. tools, Stihl cut-off saw, auto. supplies, manuals - '60s, chains, chicken & turkey coops, 18-4-38" trac. tire, hoists, barn gates, milk cans, iron whls., walk plow, motors, oil pumps, barb wire, Conestoga wgn. jacks, clay bird thrower, blacksmith blower & tongues, old saws, grain cleaners, scalding trough, butcher tools, wall drill press, Reading beer clock, grain cradles, woodworking tools, hay knife, elec. pwr. tools, asst. box lots of HH items & more. Guns.: Rem. #870 12-ga. mag, Rem. #514 22-cal. tube-fed bolt actions, Rem. #512 22-cal. bolt, Mossberg #630 22-cal. mag., Ruger 22-cal. sgl. 6 revolver (early), H&R 10-shot revolver. Lumber: Lg. stack of seasoned 5/4 black walnut - oak - cherry. Auctioneer Note: After 60 yrs., Myers & Mabel are retiring from farming & offering this fine antique tractor collection along w/a very clean line of well-kept equipment, etc. Plan To Attend. Sale Order: 9 AM - Smalls; 11/11:30 AM - Guns, Followed by Equip., Trctrs., Car, Trks, Trlrs. Terms: Cash or PA check; day of auction.

Auctioneers: KENNETH P. LEIBY Sale For: PA L#AU001541-L **MYERS & MABEL** BRIAN GELSINGER, PA L#AU0005528 ADAM 610-562-3929 · www.auctionzip.com - I.D. #5718

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

#### **COINS & CURRENCY** Monday, March 30, 2015 at 5:00 PM

Location: Indoors at the Leesport Farmers Mkt. Center Court Meeting Rm., just off Rt. 61 (8 mi. N. of Reading) at the North end of Leesport, Berks Co., PA.

Items: 1981-S type 2 U.S. proof sets, 1912 Great Britain gold Sovereign coin, 1988 Am. Eagle \$5 gold bullion, 1929 Ten Dollar note First Nat'l. Bank Bernville, 1929 \$20 note Nat'l. Bank Topton, \$20 note Bank of Pottstown & Pottsville, \$5 Wood Chopper bill, 1936 "D" Texas Ind. Centennial, 1885 "V" nickel, 1912 "V" nickel full Liberty, Barber & Mercury dimes, 1841 Seated dollar & 1871 full Liberty, 1879 CC-over CC Morgan, 1880-1884 CC Certified Morgans, 1935 Peace dollar, 1909-S Indian head, 1886-O Morgan & 1888-S Certified Morgans, plus more. 165 Quality Vintage Coins.

Auctioneers: KENNETH P. LEIBY, PA L#AU001541-L BRIAN GELSINGER, PA L#AU0005528 610-562-3929 • www.auctionzip.com - I.D. #5718

Includes Federal Long Form Schedules A (itemized deductions) & B and PA Return WEALTH ACCUMULATION PLANNING 8509 Allentown Pike (Rt. 222) • Blandon, PA • 610-916-8455 ONLY 1400+ RETURNS PREPARED LAST YEAR/18,000+ SINCE TAX YEAR 2002 ONLY <sup>\$</sup>115 Ask About Our Small Business (sole props only) and Rental Return Fees COOPERTIRES **CS5 Grand Touring** Premium Limited Warranty Free 45-Day Road Test! 80.000-Mile Treadwear Protection Premium Luxury Touring T-Rated The CS5 Grand Touring has innovative technologies and is engineered for real-life performance on real-life roads. The CS5 Grand Touring provides long lasting ride comfort in a wide range of sizes to fit most modern passenger vehicles and SUVs. KANTNER'S OUT-THE-DOOR TIRE SERVICE, INC. TIRE PRICES  $\checkmark$ All Tire Prices Include Mounting, Balancing, 230 South Franklin Street  $\checkmark$ SHOEMAKERSVILLE · 610-562-2567 And New Valve Stem HOURS: MON. THRU FRI. 7 TO 5; SAT. 7 TO 12 www.kantnerstire.com · GLENN ROBERTS SERVICES SERVICES CLEANING: HATE ROOF LEAKS? We PRECISE 'Em! We'll Take Off Your Hands. Love Done in your home or Them business, by an experi-DIAMOND QUALITY CON-STRUCTION 610-967-1283. enced, honest, depend-able, woman. Excellent references. Call 610-682-**PROPERTY CLEANUP: We** clean attics, garages, basements, brush piles, 2329. ENRICHED SCREENED TOPSOIL: \$25/ yard plus yard waste and scrap met-

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#### HELP WANTED

LANDSCAPING company is hiring grass cutter, must have experience using zero turn mower. Also hiring for tree trimming, and lawn care maintenance. Must have current drivers license. Health care after 90 days. Call 610-392-3115.



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STILL ONLY

<sup>\$</sup>115

STONY CREEK MILLS RE, OLD ALLIS CHALMERS #190 XT PEDAL TRACTOR, MARX TRAIN SET - '50s, ANTIQUES, **COLLECTIBLES, HOUSEHOLD GOODS & TOOLS** 



Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 9:00 AM Location: 17 Myrtle Ave., just off Carsonia Ave. & rear at Antietam Middle School, Stony Creek Mills, Reading, Berks Co., PA.

RE: Consists of a 3-BR brick rancher w/LR, kit., 11/2 BA, full attic & basement, side enclosed porch, gas hot air heat, near new CA, rear macadam driveway w/1-car gar. & nice yard. Home is very well kept in nice area & close to school. For Inspection: Call for appt. at 610-987-0002 or 610-678-5542. Terms: 10% down; balance in 30 days. Real Estate Offered At 12:00 Noon. Auctioneers: KENNETH P. LEIBY Sale For: **ARTHUR W. HILL** PA L#AU001541-L

**BRIAN GELSINGER, PA L#AU0005528** ESTATE 610-562-3929 · www.auctionzip.com - I.D. #5718

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TEAMS - coast-to-coast		
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REQUIREMENTS: Flatbed/Reefer/Van exp Recent 2 years OTR with Class A CDL Min. Age 24 with Good Driving Record BENEFITS: Plenty of Miles/Great Pay Modern Equipment Health/Life/401K Electives		
BELL TRUCKING CO., INC. Shoemakersville, PA 1-800-345-4115 x213 or Apply Online at www.belltrucking.com		

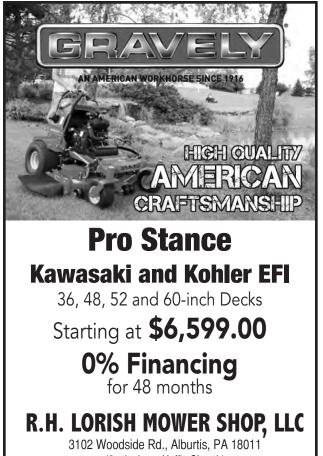
2001 Saturn L200 4 Cyl	Was \$6,990 <b>ֆ<b>3,</b>990</b>
2000 Chrysler Cirrus Nice Car	Only 90K
1996 Nissan Maxima Runs Good	\$3,990
CARS:	
2010 Nissan Sentra Clean	
2000 Eard Euclan	W

#### 201 2008 Ford Fusion ......Was \$10,990 \$8,990 2007 Toyota Camry LE 4 Cyl., Leather, One Owner! .Was \$12,990 \$10,490 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT One Owner, Low Miles! Was \$8,990 \$6,990 2006 Buick LaCrosse Loaded ......Was \$8,990 \$7,990 2006 Chevy Cobalt LT 4 Dr., PW, PL .....Was \$9,990 \$6,990 TRUCKS/VANS/SUVS: 2008 Nissan Rogue SL AWD ......Was \$10,990 \$8,990 2007 Suzuki XL-7 AWD 3rd Row ..... Only 73K 2004 Hyundai Santa Fe AWD ...... Was \$4,990 Give Offer

2001 Toyota Highlander ......Was \$9,990 \$8,990 We Pay Cash For Your Used Car, Truck or SUV!

Hours: Mon., Tues. & Thurs. 9:00-7:00; Wed. & Fri. 9:00 to 5:00; Sat. 9:00 to 3:00; Closed Sun.





(2 mi. above Huff's Church) 610-845-2164 rhlorish.com Store Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 8 am-6 pm, Fri. 8 am-4 pm, Sat. 8 am-2 pm, Sun. Closed

#### PUBLIC AUCTION

COINS, LONGABERGER, FURNITURE, **TOOLS & CARS** 

Thursday, March 26, 2015 at 2:00 PM Location: Auction Center, 820 Nursery St., Fogelsville, PA 18051

Antiques & Collectibles (Approx. 3 PM): 30+ Longaberger baskets; dzns. US Commemorative Gallery coin sets; dzn. pcs. Carnival-Blue, Amethyst, Marigold-bowls & Nappy; crystal decanter; Hummel figurines; Hall's teapot; Asian statues & vases; dzns. art pottery pcs.; Haeger, Roseville, Martindale; carved figural statues; pink Depression glass, Opalescent glass; Etruria Ironstone pitcher & bowl, soup tureens; Jardinieres; Rockingham pitchers; Fenton baskets, compotes, bells, figures; signed oil on canvas; Blue Willow; Delft; Majolica pitcher; marble bookends; Oley Valley & Berks County historical books. Fur-niture (Approx. 7 PM): Cherry 8 pc. DRS; cherry 6 pc. BRS; mahog. kneehole desk/table; mint green & cream enameled 5 pc. dinette set; maple & mahog. tea carts; 2 cherry wall units; pine 3 pc. BRS; oak sideboard & washstand; Empire style chest of drawers; Depression style china closet; Depression style chest of drawers; 3 cedar 2-door wardrobes; Occ. & end tables; Serpentine front dresser; corner cabinet; like new La-Z-Boy recliner, sofa, love seats. Vehicles: 2004 Chevrolet Impala LS Sedan 45,000 miles; 2002 Chrysler Sebring LX convertible 150,000 miles; 2002 Ford E-150 cargo van 74,000 miles. Tools & Building Supplies & HHG (Approx. 2 PM): Craftsman rolling tool chest; Craftsman 3/8", 1/2", 3/4" socket sets; Craftsman wrenches; asstd. pliers; 100s hand tools; 20+ parts drawers, full; hand truck; engine stand; elec. drills, circ. & recip. saws; asstd. drill indexes; Airco torches; welding clamps; solder guns; hammers, mallets, pry bars; cabinets full of tools too numerous to mention; 6' stepladder; long-handle tools; Jerry cans; steel car ramps; Kee Games Arcade "Tank Attack"; Singer sewing machine; Runner sled; Harley Davidson parts; 1960s motorcycle jacket Schoot Perfecto; records & books; dog crate; CI porch furniture; asstd. bicycles; porcelain dolls; small kitchen appliances; hundreds of boxes still to unpack. Terms: Cash, Check, Visa, M/C, Disc. 10% buyer's premium.

#### **SPRING FIREARM AUCTION & JAGUAR** Saturday, April 4, 2015 at 9:00 AM

Location: Auction Center, 820 Nursery St., Fogelsville, PA 18051. 1986 Jaguar XJS V-12. Firearms: American Historical Foundation M-14, M1 carbine, combat shotgun; Quakenbush .22 rifle; Smith & Wesson 500 mag./revolver & Taurus .454 case; D.G.F.M. 1911; Colt 25 automatic & AR-15; Parker 12 ga.; Springfield M1 Garand; Saginaw M1 carbine; U/S 03-A3; Springfield 30-40 Krag; 2 Winchester 94s; Russian & Chinese SKS; Mosin Nagant M44; Remington 870 Marine Magnum, 700 .30-06 & 1100 engraved LH; Smith & Wesson .380 & Military D/A 45 revolver; Zabala dbl. barrel; Rex-Merrill Sportsman 7mm; 1879 Enfield breech loader; Ruger Old Army; High Standard double-nine; H&R Trapper .22; plus many more firearms, view list at www.zettauction.com. **Wildlife Art & Mounts:** 70+ pcs. by Ned Smith, Jack Paluh, Bray, Hansen, LePage. Also PA duck stamp prints. Mounts: Wild bear, full black bear, fox, raccoon, albino turkey. Edged Weapons, Nazi Memorabilia & Misc.: Vintage fencing helmets; 3 swords; 13 bayonets & daggers; 10 Remington bullet knives; full Nazi frag.; SS ring & M/25 badge; Iron crosses & asstd. metals; dzn. boxes of ammo.; asstd. scopes & binoculars. Terms: Cash, Check, Visa, M/C, Disc. 10% buyer's premium.



CLEANERS: PT Trexlertown Area 6-9pm. Mon-Fri. 610-481-8182.

Looking for Landscape & Hardscape Laborers for our busy Spring & Summer. This is a temporary job! Must work well with others as you will be working in a team. Must have a valid Drivers License. Must be able to lift 75lbs. Please send resume to pinecreek17933@ gmail.com or call Wendi at 570-739-1140 to put a job application in.

STORE MANAGER: Seasonal retail position (April possible October) with overtimé benefits and such as medical insurance, retirement plan & paid holidays. As a key member of our team, our Store Manager manages inventory, purchasing, and pricing, while providing outstanding customer service to our loyal customers. Swimming pool industry and water chemistry experience strongly preferred. Prior sales experience and familiarity with QuickBooks & Microsoft Office a plus. Must be dependable and motivated, and have excellent people skills. Call 610-582-POOL. www.aquamatic pools.com

Dock Worker: We are looking for a professional individual to join our team at GRQ Used Furniture in Kutztown. This is a part time position Thursday-Saturday 10am-6pm Sun-day 11am-5pm. Starting rate is \$8/hr. Address: 145 Highland Ave Kutztown, pa 19530. MUST HAVE VALID DRIVERS LICENSE! MUST HAVE OWN TRANS-PORTATION! DO NOT TEXT Call Jack 610-207-Quali :om mercial Driving is a plus. Prior dock/ warehouse experience is a plus. Prior experience loading and unloading trailers pre-ferred. MUST have great people skills, able to be helpful and answer all questions. Able to lift at least 40 pounds during shift. At least 18 years of age. Highly motivated indi-vidual with attention to detail. Ability to count and perform basic math, with or without a calculator. Basic written and verbal communication skills (documentation, communication with peers, supervisors, etc.) Ability to bend, twist, squat, pushing/ pulling throughout shift. Ability to follow instructions and complete required training. Ability to work independently and/ or as a team member. Must be able to perform the essential functions with or without supervision.

Forklift, FT Sit Down Forklift positions avail. in

FT Housekeeper Needed Senior Living Facility. Every 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend. Benefit



bath with over 1700 square feet of living space. Large open kitchen open to the family room with gas fireplace. Professionally landscaped with Vinyl privacy fencing and patio. Listed at \$199,900 70+ ACRE FARM IN HAMBURG, WINDSOR TOWNSHIP Approximately 55 acres tillable, property must stay in Clean & Green 550 LINDEN ROAD, KUTZTOWN Everything is new and well maintained. 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, office or convert back to 2-car garage. Finished basement for in-law suite or multi-generation family. Inground pool, sunroom on 1 acre. Too much to list. Schedule your personal showing today 495 FLEETWOOD ROAD, BOWERS Nice little cape-style home in Kutztown Schools. Short distance to Deka and Bower Park. Large yard with a 2-car detached garage with additional storage. ... \$137,900 404 EAGLE DRIVE, BLANDON Large eat-in kitchen, family room with fireplace, living room and dining room, deck and aboveground pool with fenced-in rear yard. Large master suite, 3 additional bed-rooms and common bath. **\$232,900** rooms and common bath. ..... View all our listings at www.craigreinerthomes.com 975 Berkshire Blvd., Suite 100, Wyomissing, PA 19610 'LOCAL REALTORS, LOCAL RESULTS, LOCAL SETTLEMENT LOCATIONS" WE COME TO YOU HELP WANTED **CDL A Class Driver Want**ed: Leesport PA to Massachusetts. Also Mechanic Wanted, FT or PT. AKU Transports. Call 302-339-7952 or 302-690-2745.

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Call 610-562-8512.

able Mon-Fri 7am-4pm in Qtown. Sit down forklift experience req. \$12/hr. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33 Mail Machine Operators

Immediate Openings- 2nd & 3rd shift! Pay starts \$10.75-\$11.00/hr with increase to \$12.75/hr after first yr. HS diploma/GED req'd. Apply online at www.htss-inc.com or call HTSS at 610-432-4161.

Order Pullers: PT posi-tions avail. Saturdays 7am-3:30pm. \$12 hr. in Fogelsville area. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.



\$229,900

\$648,000

\$369,500

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Large colonial 4 befroom, 2.5 baths with 2-car garage. Open eat-in kitchen that flows into the family room with a wood burning fireplace. Formal living room and dining room,

hardwood floors. Mud room/laundry as you enter the home from the garage. Cul-de-sac

OPEN HOUSE 3-/29/15, 1-3 PM - 741 SEEM DR., KUTZTOWN

Almost new semi-detached home that has been very well maintained. 3 bedrooms/2.5

lot with nice open area. Centrally located between Reading and Allentown







Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 8:30 AM Location: At Kutztown Produce Auction, 209 Oakhaven Road, Fleetwood, PA.

	00, 17.		
• Farm Eq	ONSIGNMENT uipment	S WELCC • Lawn &	1
• Lumber	•	• Tools	
• Furniture	9	<ul> <li>Quilts</li> </ul>	)
Crafts		<ul> <li>Nursery</li> </ul>	Stock
Information:	Quilts & Craft	ts	610-683-6098
	Farm Equipm	nent	610-914-1248
	Shrubs & Fur	rniture	610-780-2269
	Questions on	Payment	610-393-5331
	ALL BY MOND		
ADVERTISEM	IENT OF THE IT	TEMS YOU	WANT TO SELL
	CALL 610-9	944-0370	
To have quilts li	isted in catalog,	call 610-68	3-6098 by April 4
	Receivin	g Dates:	
Tue. & Wed.,	April 14, 15 8	am-4 pm	Field items only
Thur. & I	Fri. April 16 17	' 8 am-8 p	m All items
Receiving	g quilts & craft	s on Thur.	& Fri. ONLY
	<u>TŚ MUST BE</u>		
<b>NO -</b> Used tires, TVs, stereos or yard sale items.			
The Kutztown Consignment Auction Committee has			
the right to refuse any or all items.			
Commission Rate 15% on first \$200, 5% \$201 and over. Example: Sell an			
item for \$400, 1	5% on first \$200=\$3	0, 5% on remai	nder=\$10, total \$40.

Max commission \$250, \$10 no-sale fee, \$30 no-sale fee on farm tractors. \$10 nonrefundable deposit on most electrical appliances.

Sale By KUTZTOWN CONSIGNMENT AUCTION COMMITTEE



.Sale \$14,400 '07 Ford Edge SEL Plus AWD Stk. #3195, Dune Pearl Metallic, 2 Power Heated Leather Seats with Memory, 2 Power Sunroofs, Rear Park Assist, Traction Control, Power Folding Rear Seats, 18" Chrome Alloys, Premium CD Changer with Sirius Plus-Plus-Plus Clean Carfax, 79,564 Miles. Stk. #3192, Cayenne Red, 2.5L, Auto., Pwr. Options, ABS & Traction Control, Keyless Remotes, Side & Curtain Air Bags, Clean Carfax, 65,427 Miles. '11 Ford E-Series Cargo E-150.... ..Sale **\$14,800** Stk. #3194, Oxford White, 4.6L V8, 8520 GVW, Power Windows-Locks-Mirrors, Steel Shelves & Drawers, Clean Carfax, 106,260 Miles. Sale **\$14,800** '14 Ford Focus SE 4 Dr. Stk. #3199, Silver, 2.0L, Auto., Alloys, Bluetooth, Sync, CD w/Aux. Ports, Trac Cntrl., ABS, Cruise, Tilt/Telescopic Wheel, 2 Remotes, Books, Balance of MFGR's Warranty, 36,805 Miles '12 Chevy Equinox LT AWD......Was \$16,400 - Sale \$14,865 Stk. #3163, 2.4L Power Seat, Heated Cloth Seats, Remote Start, Bluetooth, XM Radio/CD Alloy Wheels, Gold Mist Metallic, 73,180 Miles.

Many of our vehicles are clean, CarFax 1-Owners and you can get your FREE COMPLETE CarFax report here or our website.





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Sadly Missed

Mom, Dad, Dawn, Derek, Karen, Melvin, Zachary, Nicholas, Skylar

#### HELP WANTED

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Warehouse: HTSS Accepting Applications for Behr Paint. FT/Seasonal pos. avail. in Fogelsville. Sun-Th 11pm-7:30am. \$12.75 to start + wkly & yr. end bonus. Phone: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Pickers: FT positions avail. in Fogelsville. Sun-Thurs 11pm-7:30am. \$12. 75/hr. Pulling swatch cards to get ready for shipments. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.

Maintenance Mechanic: FT position in Fogelsville. Mon-Fri 7am-3:30pm. \$21. 60/hr. Candidates must have Mfg. Mach. Maint exp. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.

CLEANERS: PT 3-8:45pm. Mon- Fri. 610-481-8182.

Maint. Technician: FT positions avail. in Fogelsville area. Candidates must Industrial Maint. have Mech. Exp. Pay: \$16hr. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.

Newspaper Inserters PT/ Flex schedule. 2nd/ 3rd shifts avail. Great opp for extra income! \$10/hr. East Greenville. Call HTSS at 610-432-4161 ext. 34.

HELP WANTED

LABORERS: Tree Nursery LABORERS: Tree Nursery has seasonal work in our growing and retail areas. Potting, digging, display-ing, loading and unloading trees and shrubs. No experience necessary. If you desire a quick moving day with diverse physical out-door activity you will en-joy this work. Lifting required. Must have reliable transportation. Flexible FT, PT, partial day/ week available. Students wel-come. Call Karen at Foliage Farm, Rt. 222 near Kutztown to apply. 610-442-5634.

Machine Operators: FT positions avail. in Fo-gelsville. 7pm-7am. \$14.58 hr. Call HTSS: 610-432-4161 ext. 33.

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Once Upon A Tim

There was an owner of a very successful hot dog stand. This owner built his business by having the best hot dogs around and by letting his customers know about them through extensive advertising. His business was so successful that he was able to send his son to a prestigious Ivy League school where his son was studying to receive his M.B.A.

One day the son came home for a break and promptly questioned his father "Dad, don't you know that there is a recession going on out there?" The father replied that his business was going very well, but the son persisted telling his father "Dad, you've got to cut back." So the father, figuring his son knew all about business, followed the son's advice. He promptly cut his advertising budget and then cut his hot dog & bun orders. Before long, business in fact did slow down. So the father replied to the son "You were right, son. Business is terrible. There is a recession going on out there."



#### HELP WANTED

Person to work part time on dairy farm, Oley Area, must like to work with animals, and be dependable. Experience a plus. Call 610-689-5496.

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#### NOTICE OF LIEN SALE

Kutztown Self Storage 50 Apple Alley, Ku-tztown, PA 19530 In order to satisfy its statutory lien, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Kutztown Self Storage will sell to the general public by auction commencing at 12:30 PM., Tuesday, March 31, 2015 the property described as & miscellaneous personal property contained in spaces rented by the following occupants:

Aaron Burgert: C15 Gregory Delong: 10

Facility Owner reserves the right to bid at the sale. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid for at the time of the sale. All purchased goods are sold "as is". All buyers must register prior to sale and the sale will be conducted in accordance with auction rules established by the Facility Owner. Sale is subject to cancellation in the event of settlement between Landlord and obligated party. For more details or to preregister go to: Storage Treasurers.com



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#### PUBLIC AUCTION

#### COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Location: 715 Furnace Rd., S. Heidelberg Twp., Wernersville, PA

RE Features: 1883 frame Vict.-style house on side of a hill w/views of woodland & neighboring farm. Lg. mdrn. country kit., 2 other 1st-flr. rms. 3 BRs, stand-up attic, full basement, 1.5 BAs, wraparound porch, sngl. car gar. on .4 ac. Very well maintained. Same ownership for 56 yrs. Taxes. - \$2,876 in Conrad Weiser Schls. Inspection by appt. only. Terms: 8% down day of sale. Cash or guaranteed funds. Settlement on or before 45 days

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April 22, 2015

2015

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#### PUBLIC AUCTION

Auction Dates: Mar. 26 & April 9 & 23, 2015 at 5 pm. Doors Open 3 pm Location: Oley Valley Auction Co., Rt. 73, 662 & Oley Rd., Oley, PA 19547 **THURSDAY, MARCH 26** 

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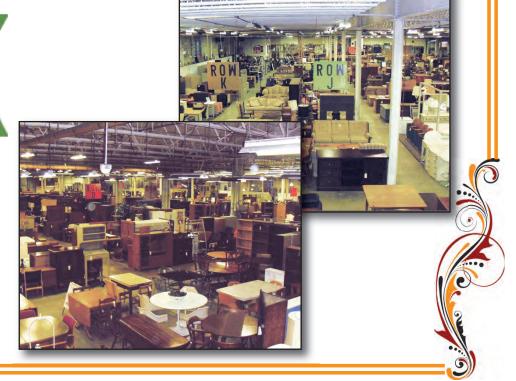


www.theshoppesatkirbyville.com Hours: Thursday - Sunday 9 am to 4 pm

Visit our 3-story renovated barn filled with a mixture of antiques and collectibles. Take a trip back in time.







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MONDAY, MARCH 23 & WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25: HAPPY HOUR - 5 pm to 7 pm \$.25 Off All Drinks (Excludes Soda) and FREE Hot Dogs!

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Tuesday, March 24 & Thursday, March 26: Burger & Fryer Night 5 pm to 9 pm

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, MARCH 27 & 28: DINNER SPECIAL 5 pm to 9 pm (In addition to our regular menu) CHEESE & GARLIC BAKED CHICKEN W/POTATO FISH SANDWICH & FF

> SATURDAY, MARCH 28: KIDS' EASTER EGG HUNT with the Easter Bunny at 1 pm!

FISH COMMITTEE CHICKEN BBQ TICKETS are available at the Clubhouse



#### **Guild Show Cancellation**

Due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict, we regret that the Reading-Berks Guild of Craftsmen must cancel its 13th Annual Spring Juried Fine Arts and Crafts Festival on March 28 and 29, 2015 at the O'Pake Fieldhouse at Kutztown University.

Don't forget our 66th Annual Juried Holiday Fine Arts and Crafts Festival at the same location on Sat., Oct. 31 and Sun., Nov. 1.

Check our website <u>www.rbcrafts.org</u> for the latest news about Guild events and activities.

We appreciate your understanding and regret any inconvenience.

☆ Celebrating 70 Years... 🇱



Sun. 11:30 AM-7 PM

**Closed Mondays & Tuesday** 

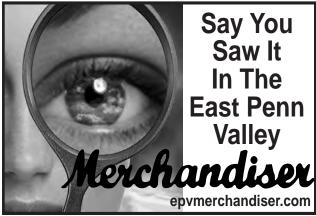


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STEVE STETZLER. Owner

WS4 (0000 200 ----





EAST PENN VALLEY MERCHANDISER FOR MARCH 25, 2015 www.epvmerchandiser.com **Catering Available** DESCOVER ISA MERERCARD Easter Fri., Mar. 27 FAX: 610-894-9693 & Sat., Mar. 28 Bunny out on 14949 Kutztown Rd. ) **PRIME RIB** Kutztown, Pa. **Express**! WEEKEND! Ristorante PH: 610-894-9694 www.giannottisristorante.com WK&S, NEW HOURS: Mon. & Tues. 11:00 am to 9:00 pm Great Lunch Specials! **DAILY** INC. Pasta - Seafood ALBURTIS ROD & GUN CLUB Kempton, PA 19529 Wed. - Sat. 11:00 am to 10:00 pm \$7.95 **Steaks - Sandwiches** Closed Sundays ADULTS AND CHILDREN <sup>\$</sup>10.00, 610-966-5733 Our Famous Sauces & Soups Are Available For Takeout Kitchen Closes 1/2 Hour Before Closing 2 And Under **FREE** Ham Shoot Departs on the Hour: **Gift Certificates Available** by the Quart 1, 2, 3 & 4 PM Happy Hour 5 to 7 p.m. Mon. to Fri. SATURDAY, MARCH 28 Sun., March 29 **IN-HOUSE** DAILY <sup>\$</sup>1.25 <sup>\$</sup>1.25 35° & SUNDAY, MARCH 29 STARTING AT 10 A.M. - Monday - Thursday Drafts Slices Toppings Special Treats For The Kids! Lasagna or Shepherd's Pie Seafood Night <sup>\$2.00</sup> Off 16-20 lb. WALK-UPS WELCOME Entree w/Choice Of Bread Any Seafood Entree Of Your Choice **TAKEOUT SPECIALS** www.kemptontrain.com \$9.95 Hatfield Hams Buy 1 Appetizer, Get 2nd Info: 610-756-6469 Buy 2 Large Plain Pizzas 40¢ Wings (In House Only) **Rifle & Shotgun Shoots** Get The 3rd FREE! \$19.90 1/2 Off All Sportsmen Welcome <sup>s</sup>1.25 Drafts (\$2.00 extra per topping) All-You-Can-Eat Pasta Kitchen Open - Friday -1 Large Plain Pizza RAJAH SHRINE w/Choice Of Bread \$6.95 Weekend Specials ....<sup>\$</sup>14.95 w/12 Wings ..... **MINE HOLE CLEANUP FOR FISHING SEASON** (Toppings Are Extra) Check Our Website (\$2.00 cm.) 2 Large Pizzas & 36 Wings ... **\*34.95** 0.14 Sandwiches ... **\*13.95** (\$2.00 extra per topping) SAT., MARCH 28, RAINDATE: SUN., MARCH 29 - Tuesday -- Saturday -RIN(H) 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Weekend Specials (In House Only) **Chicken Parmigiana** w/Choice Of Pasta &Bread \$7.95 Bring chainsaws, trimmers and yard tools Plain Slice Of Pizza <sup>\$1.00</sup> 3 Large Cheesesteaks (only) . . **\*15.95** (\$.35 Extra Per Toppings) **Calzone** w/3 Toppings **\$6.95** Steamers Buy 1, Get 1 - 1/2 Off Every Thursday Monday/Tuesday Only: Doors open at 5:00, Personal Stromboli Bingo starts at 6:30 (Clams Or Mussels) Sunday w/3 Toppings \$5.95 MAR. MIDWEEK SPECIALS ments available for p - Smoke Free -Wednesday -\$2.00 Off Any Entree 2 Closed **RAJAH SHRINE** <sup>s</sup>2.00 Drafts 06 200 Check Our Website For Weekend Specials - WEDNESDAY'S ARE S&S -Steak & Shrimp w/2 sides ......<sup>\$</sup>18.50 COMPLEX VIRGINVILLEHOTEL.COM) 221 Orchard Road, Reading, PA 19605 610-562-7072 www.rajahshrine.org CLOSED Mon. & Tues.; Wed. & Thurs. 3:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 12 noon to 9 p.m. AIR CONDITIONED FACILITIES For information and directions PAPPY T's PUB Sun. 12 noon to 7 p.m. call: 610-916-9000 ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT SPECIAL: WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, MARCH 25 & 26 SUNDAY, APRIL 12 BEER DINNER FEATURING LANCASTER BREWING COMPANY FREE GIVEAWAY EACH WEEK! CLAM CORN PIE \*proceeds benefit Rajah Shrine and e not deductible as charitable donations Manager - W. Trautman **Delicious** Pub-fare **Gift Certificates Available** 12 Beers on Tap **Reservation Required** ated In The Village Of Virginville Rt. 143 Just 10 Minutes From I-78 or Rt. 222 Visit Our Website For Menu www.virginville Check Out Our New Menu! **Your Favorite Cocktails** •www.pappyts.com Kitchen Under New Management! Come in and check out our new and improved menu and our great-tasting homemade dishes prepared by Chef Chad, bringing 13 years of cooking excellence to make Pappy T's the talk of the town! ~ PAPPY T'S SPECIALS ~ Served March 25 to March 31, 2015 CHICKEN BOW TIE NOODLE SOUP... CUP \$295 BOWL \$395 HOMEMADE **CZTOWN FIRE** ( WEEKLY FOOD SPECIALS FRESH CUT SWEET POTATO FRIES \$**4**50 – COUPON – **Easter Buffet Menu** 10% OFF Food Purchase GALUMPKIS Stuffed Cabbage Rolls - Mixture Of Ground Beef Pork, Onions, Fresh Garlic & Rice Wrapped In Steamed Cabbage Leaves & Topped w/A Sweet & Sour Tomato Sauce & Served w/Your Choice Of Homemade Soup or Garden Salad ...... Banquet Room Doors Open 11 am - 2:30 pm 050 PAPPY T'S PUB Meals Only. Beverages Not Included. Not to be combined with any other discount. \$13 for Adults; \$5.95 for children under 12 **GNOCCHI W/BABY SPINACH, GARLIC & ANCHOVIES** Sweet Potatoes & Filling Coupon good March 25 - March 31, 2015 Menu: Broccoli Crab Soup ENTERTAINMENT Corn & Green Beans WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25: 9:00 pm-12:00 BIG SHOW KARAOKE W/JIM Tossed Salad **CAJUN BLACKENED PORK CHOPS** Assorted 2 Cajun Dry Rubbed Pork Chops, Seared Blackened & Topped w/Sauteed Tricolor Bell Peppers & Served w/Your Choice Of 2 Sides & Homemade Soup or Garden Salad..... THURSDAY, MARCH 26: 8:00 pm-OPEN MIC W/CHIP Bacon Dressing, Ranch, Homemade Desserts **\$12**99 Raspberry Vinaigrette FRIDAY, MARCH 27: 9:30 pm HOLY SMOKE Make your Includes Soda, Iced Tea 8 Oz. FILET MIGNON TOPPED W/CRAB & HOLLANDAISE reservations NOW! **Roasted Sliced Turkey** SATURDAY, MARCH 28: 9:30 pm-12:30 am 6X9 TUESDAY, MARCH 31: 7:30 pm-??? FREE TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER or Fruit Punch. Seasoned Filet Mignon Grilled To Perfection & Topped w/Lump Crabmeat Sauteed In White Wine & Butter, Honey Glazed Ham Alcoholic Beverages are Reservations \$**22**99 suggested. Drizzled w/Hollandaise Sauce & Served w/Your Choice Additional Fresh Turkey Gravy Of 2 Sides & Homemade Soup or Garden Salad OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK - Bar Hours: Sun. 11 AM till 1 AM; We Are A Nonsmoking Establishment Mon. thru Thurs. 3 PM till 2 AM; Fri. & Sat. 11 AM till 2 AM, Visit Our Website At: kutztownfireco.com 50 In. (Behind The BIKER FRIENDLY BAR ANN 50 Industrial Drive, Hamburg • 610.562.5645 (Behind The Microtel Inn & Suites - Across From Cabelas) Kitchen - Sun. 11 AM till 10 PM; Mon. thru Thurs. 3 PM till 10 PM; Fri. & Sat. 11 AM till 10 PM **PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!** INN & SUITES IICROTEL The social quarters is open to the public for meals Until 9 pm Mon. - Sun. • Nonsmoking until 10 pm onmembers must be signed in by a member to be served alcohol.) NOW OPEN SUNDAYS Conference Room • Game Room • Jacuzzi Suites 1:00 to 9:00 pm Aicrotel nn & Suites 610-683-8703 Ext. 3 WIRELESS HIGH SPEED INTERNET (T1, 3) Lyons Fire Co. The Inn at Maple Grove SPECIALS \*  $\star$  LUNCH



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whole fillets or portions

ADDITIONAL SMOKED FAVORITES

Chicken Pot Pie

**★** DINNER SPECIALS FOR



3/27 - Prime Rib Sandwich 3/30 - Franks & Beans Casserole



3/24 - Veal Patty







#### MISCELLANEOUS

Metal Bar Stools 6 w/padded \$30; seats Style Wooden Retro Record Player \$25; 2 metal chicken feeder \$25/pc; assorted Cookbooks \$5/ea; Patio set \$75; Kinkade lighthouses multiple w/ certificates \$25/pc; Mono marble lamps Gree \$200/pr; 16' Fiberglass extension ladder \$20; 610-562-3716.

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Got an older car, boat or RV? Do the humane thing. Donate it to the Humane Society. Call 1-800-758-2204 (\*179836)

IMMEDIATE CASH PAID for disabled vehicles and machinery. Call for a quote today. 484-221-2278 INVENTORY CLEARANCE, 50% Off! All lawn and garden items must go! Save 50% on fertilizers, pruners, sprayers, tools, hoses, sprinklers, chemicals, repellents, pots, gloves and much more. Visit Fehl's at 5369 Allentown Pike, Temple.

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Mitsubishi 60" DLP TV needs DLP chip \$250; JVC 27" TV \$50; Tishiba TV/ VCR combo \$40; 4 Jetta alloy 5 spoke 16" rims \$225; Karaoke machine \$45; Stanley wood router, hand held with case \$65; 484-894-7639.

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for the 2015-16 school year. Call us at 610-682-2109 and plan a visit or to request information about Lighthouse Christian Academy, a K through 12th grade school. We

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Enrollment is now open

also serve home school students doing evaluations. Imchurchacademy.org Got Knee Pain? Back Pain?

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610-682-2109 for Info, Sunday Service starts at 10 am. Join us for great contemporary worship!

#### MOBILE HOMES

New Private Mobile Home Lot For Rent in Birdsboro. This new lot is for single wide mobile homes. Pets are ok. Call 610-845-3349.

OPEN HOUSE Sat. 3/28 & Sunday 3/29 12noon-5pm; 103 All Kings Dr, New Ringgold. Stylish 3 BR 2 BA is family friendly! Master suite with spa shower! Bright open floor concept, stone FP in FR, formal LR/DR. Oak kitchen includes all appliances, AC. Large shed, spacious back deck. Serene tranquil setting, wooded back view all in a mostly over 55 community. Low Taxes \$47,900 570-540-6103 www. thepinesatwestpenn.com.

We are now setting up appointments to see the following homes in Irish Creek Village, SV Schools, 1/2 mi. W of Centerport. Well kept 14'X60' preowned, 2 bedrooms, full bath, front kitchen with appliances; also washer & dryer. Oil Heater, Central A/C, Covered patio, shed. \$13,900. MUST SEE- NEW Double wide, 28'X56' Pine Grove Home. Open concept, Living room with Built in Entertainment center, Dining Area, 43 handle Kitchen Cabinets, Wet Bar, Island Counter, Range, Refrigerator/ Freezer, Microwave, Dish-washer, Large Utility Room, 3 Spacious Bed-rooms with Walk in Closets, 2 Full Baths with Tub & Showers. \$89,900 Both Homes Site Rent Includes Water, Sewer, & Trash Pick Up. Call Today for Appointments. 610-926-2393 E-Mail haroldspatz 552@comcast.net. Pet Friendly Community.



#### MOBILE HOMES

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#### GARAGE/YARD SALES

MASSIVE CHILDREN & TEEN Consignment Sale. Leesport Farmers Market (Rt #61) Saturday, April 11th, 8am-2pm. Over 500 families. Gently used clothes, toys, strollers, baby items, books, coats, shoes, maternity & much more! Cash/ credit. No strollers allowed in during sale. 610-693-4229. Half Off Sale: 1-2 pm, berkskid scloset.com

Schuylkill Haven: Saint Ambrose Men's Club Parish Yard Sale, 302 Randel Street (Parish Center) in Schuylkill Haven. April 11<sup>th</sup>, 7am-noon. Household merchandise, Priced to Sell. This is the Yard Sale you will NOT want to miss!

YARD SALE: MARCH 27-28 Adult & children clothing, shoes, baby swing, Tupperware, material, hutch and more. 1033 Maidencreek Rd., Fleetwood, 610-926-0193.

#### ANTIQUES

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6721 (\*175552).

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#### SEASONAL EQUIPMENT

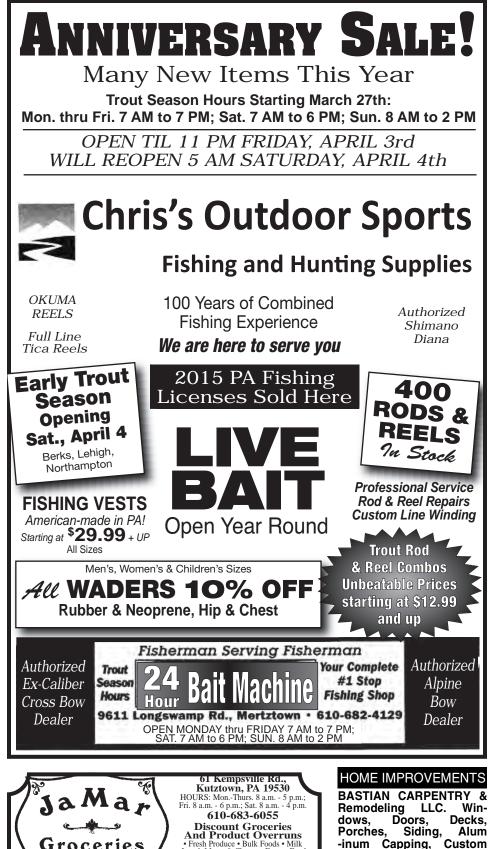
For Sale: 42" Two Stage SNOW THROWER, like new, fits Simplicity Prestige tractor, New Value \$2500, asking \$700 or reasonable offer. 610-756-6626.

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ment, guitar. Call Kevin at 484-332-9525 or 610-926-



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Dauberville whereon is erected a 2-1/2 story brick home on a sizable lot with covered front

porch & a det. 2-story wood framed 4-car garage. Home has a LR, DR, kitchen & half bath on the first floor; 4 BRs and full bath on the second floor; Ig. amt. of hardwood flooring; attic; basement; oil hot water heat; well water & municipal sewer. Tract 2 consists of 22 acres M/L of open farmland with a small woodland area in clean & green located along Bossler Rd. on left, 1/4 mi. off of Belleman's Church Rd. Tract 3 consists of 15 acres M/L of open farmland with a small woodland area in clean & green with rd. frontage along Tower Rd. located on the corner of Tower Rd. & Buck Hill Rd. across from the Centre Twp. Adm. Office Bldg. Traveling on Belleman's Church Rd. turn right onto Centerport Rd., go 1 mi. then turn left onto Tower Rd. All tracts will be offered from Tract 1 at 6:00 pm. Inspection by appoint, call 610-562-3944 or 610-223-5984. Terms are 10% down payment day of auct. balance on or before 45 days. Auctioneers: DENNIS F. WAGNER, **Auction For:** AU-001427-L MONROE K. PHILLIPS TRACY L. WAGNER, AU-003172-L ESTATE Ph.: 610-562-7445 or 610-741-3828 Suzanne Baylor www.wagnerauctioneers.com Exec. www.auctionzip.com ID #1740 Lorie Phillips-Galvin Exec **Richard Geschwindt, Attorney** 

EAST PENN Merchandiser COMMUNITY VALLEY ACTION OF CALENDAR Any nonprofit organization within our circulation area may send us notifi-CALENDAR

any holpfoli organization within our circulation area may send us holif-cation of your upcoming events. We will publish this information in the East Penn Valley Merchandiser free of charge. Community Calendar listings are strictly limited to 35 words or less and 1 to 2 weeks prior to the event. The Windsor Press, Inc. will not edit your copy. If your copy is longer than the maximum 35 words, your listing will not appear. We must have this information no later than the Thursday prior to publication date. Mail information to The Windsor Press, Inc. East Penn Valley Community Calendar, 6 N. Third St., P.O. Box 465, Hamburg, PA 19526-0456 or EMAIL it to classified @windeamrease.com cr EAX: 610-663 9770 0465, or EMAIL it to: classifieds@windsorpress.com or FAX: 610.562.2770.

3/26/15, Lower Milford Twsp FC #1, AYCE Spaghetti Dinner, 1601 Limeport Pike, Coopersburg. Thursday 4:30-7pm. Or until sold out. Adults \$8, Children 6-12 \$4, Takeouts \$8.50 610-967-0412.

3/27/15, Lehigh Temple Easter Candy Sale Order deadline. 2120 Rt. 100 Macungie. Pick up 4/3 9am-noon. PB, Coconut cream, Peanut rolled cream eggs, chocolate coated pretzels. 610-797-2155.

3/28/15, Hamburg National Honor Society Community Clothing Drive. from 8am-12pm at Hamburg High School. Any and all clothing will be donated to Hope Rescue Mission. Baked goods will be available for sale.

3/28/15, Huff's Church, Easter Story Egg Hunt 1pm. Come to Chapel lower level to hear story of Jesus' week before Easter, receive gift and treat, and hunt eggs. Rain or shine. 540 Conrad Rd, Alburtis.

3/28/15, Kempton Rod & Gun Club Fall Block Shoot, Pine Creek Road, Saturday 10am-? Pine Creek Rd., Kempton.

3/28/15, Lehigh Masonic Lodge Bluegrass, Beth Coleman with Summit Hill, \$15/pp. Open 5pm. Show 6pm. 2120 Rt. 100 Ma-cungie, Chester 610-845-3215.

3/28/15, PA German Cultural Heritag Center at KU, Easter on the Farms. Historic demos, crafts, food vendors, petting zoo, wagon/ pony rides, kid's activities. Egg hunt 11:30 & 2:30. www.kutztown .edu/pgchc, 610-683-1589.

3/28/15, Reading Navy Club Breakfast, 9am. Giannottis Restaurant, State Hill Road, Wyomissing.

3/28/15, St. Peters Union Church, 7863 St. Peters Road, Macungie, Phone: 610-966-3030 Spring Bazaar, 9am-2pm, Chicken Pot Pie, Apple Dumplings, Soups Eat in or take out. To rent table or pre-order call.

3/28/15, Zion's (Spies) Evangelical Reformed Church Family Style Ham Dinner, 318 Spies Church Road, Alsace County. Saturday 3:30-7pm. Adults \$8, Child 6-12 \$4, 6-under Free. Take outs available.

3/29/15, Lenhartsville Fish & Game 3D Archery Shoot 7am-noon, Rt. 143 One mile South of Town right on Hein Road, public welcome, refreshments available.

3/29/15, the Bally Sportsmen's Assoc. Bally, Flying & Still Board Shoot, 12 gauge only. Sunday 12pm-? Non members welcome. Info: 610-207-3936.

3/31/15, Reading Navy Club Meeting. 7pm. Wyomissing Public Library, 9 Reading Blvd., Wyomissing. All veterans of US Sea going services welcome. 610-926-8343.

4/1/15, Fogelsville FC Bingo every Wednesday night, 7850 Lime St., Fogelsville. Doors open 5pm. Bingo starts 6:30pm. Paper games.

4/1/15, Trexlertown Grange Homemade Potato Filling & Bacon Dressing Order deadline for Filling \$3/lb.; Dressing \$6/qt. or \$4/pt. Pick up Friday, 4/3, 4-6 pm. 610-398-1110.

4/2&5/15, Lighthouse Baptist Church 2096 Independent Road, Rt. 863 S. near New Smithville. Breinigsville. 610-285-2235, www. lighthousebaptistly.org Thurs. Maudy Service 7pm, Sunday Easter sunrise Service 6:30am. Easter Service 10:30am.

4/4/15, Germansville FC Homemade Potato Filling & Bacon Dressing Sale, 6011 Memorial Rd, Germansville. Call 610-767-4400 to order. Pick up between 9am-11pm. Bring container for filling.

4/4/15, Germansville FC Easter Potato Filling & Bacon Dressing Sale. Preorder 610-767-4400. P/U order between 9am & 1pm. Bring container for filling.

4/4/15, Zion Moselem Lutheran Church Kutztown Easter Egg Hunt. 1pm. 340 Moselem Church Road. Lots of fun and prizes, a story time will follow.

4/6/15, New Goshenhoppen Church in East Greenville, Upper Perkiomen Life Long Learning Classes. Tuesday mornings in April. Visit www.upsd.org (site shortcuts) or call 610-326-3099 for more info.



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To Taste Freshly Grated Nutmeg To Taste 2 Cups Freshly Shredded Gruyere Cheese, Divided

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Place potatoes, garlic and salt into a large pot, fill with enough water to cover, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium, and simmer the potatoes until tender but not mushy, 8 to 10 minutes. With a slotted spoon, transfer about half the potatoes to a 9x13-inch baking dish. Pour half of the cream over the potatoes, season with black pepper and nutmeg, and sprinkle half of the Gruyere cheese onto the mixture. Top with the remaining potatoes; sprinkle again with black pepper and nutmeg. Pour on the remaining cream, and sprinkle with remaining Gruyere cheese.

Bake in the preheated oven until the cheese topping is crisp and brown on top, about 1 hour.

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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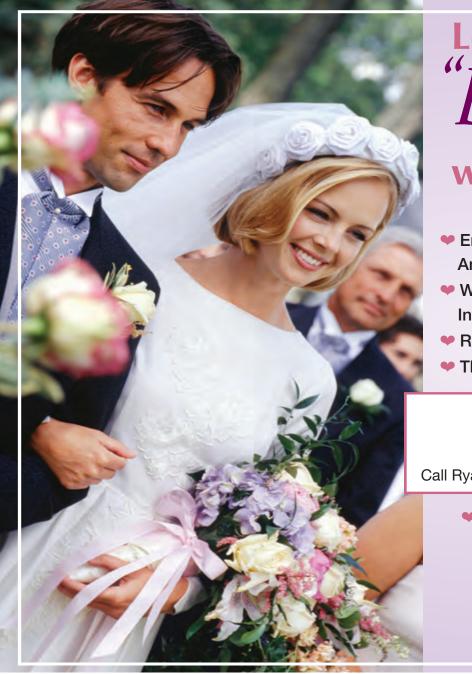
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Homeowners choose renovation projects for a variety of reasons. Although many improvements are made to increase functionality and comfort of a home, several others are seen as worthwhile investments. These investments can add up to a higher resale value when the time comes to sell a home.

Certain projects have a history of providing a greater return on homeowners' investments than others. The following renovation tips can add beauty to your home and generate great returns when you put the home up for sale.

 Invest in your kitchen. Kitchen remodels are a safe bet when it comes to putting money into improving a home. Residents tend to spend a great deal of time in the kitchen, but a dated, poorly functioning kitchen can detract from the value of a home, even if the rest of the home is in good shape. It's possible to recoup between 60 and 120 percent of your kitchen remodel investment, especially if the kitchen matches up well with the rest of your home. Homeowners should know

space. If you paint with low-VOC paint, you also can advertise an eco-friendly home, which is very desireable these days.

• Put in another bathroom. Multiple bathrooms are an attractive selling point, particularly in older homes that may not have been equipped with more than one bathroom. Finding extra space for a bathroom can be tricky, but consider closets, areas under stairs or even taking some space away from another room. Popular home-improvement television channel HGTV advises that half-bathrooms require at least 18 square feet of space, while full baths need 30 to 35 square feet for a stand-up show-

a nice touch. Inclusion of skylights and sun tubes can bring natural light into rooms that may not have south- or west-facing windows.

· Put a deck addition outdoors. Outdoor living spaces have become more desireable, especially as the "staycation" has grown in popularity. Decks and patios can make backyards more appealing. The scope of your investment will depend on the size of the deck and design. Doing the work yourself can cut the cost of decks in half, but only if you have the specific tools or experience to tackle such a project.

· Improve curb appeal. Adding er or bathtub. attractive landscaping and fresh-• Renovate the HVAC system. ening up the entryway to a home Aesthetic improvements aren't can add considerable value to your home, as buyers judge homes by their exteriors. the only ones that add value to a home. Many home buyers are eager to purchase a home that Completely renovated interiors has a new heating and cooling may never be seen if buyers pass system, as buyers understand up your home because of a less that furnaces and air conditioning attractive exterior. Classy, subtle units are substantial investments changes, like well-placed shrubbery and a green lawn, can work that can last for years. Other improvements, such as adding wonders. An inviting front door attic insulation or replacing old and well-lit entryw eluxe renovati n may not windows and doors with more curb appeal to a home. energy efficient options, also are Before making improvements, homeowners should determine if smart bets. Add illumination to rooms. A a given project will provide a solid dark home is a dreary home. Adding light can mean including return on their investment. Finding space to install an extra more overhead and accent lightbathroom in a home can be a ing. Under-cabinet task lighting is worthwhile investment. 4030 Chestnut Street, Emmaus (next to Dunkin Donuts) 610-928-1515 Has Your "Home" Life Become Taxing??? 🥑 We can make you LOVE your home again! 🤎 FILLMAN & SONS FLOORS AND MORE We can also make your home easy to sell with a few inexpensive touches that drive buyers wild! WANT YO For best price, Just mention "TAXING"



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be necessary, as relatively moderate improvements can create a whole new look for a kitchen.

· Look to paint. One of the least expensive improvement materials, but one that has a significant impact, is paint. Neutral, modern colors can easily liven up any

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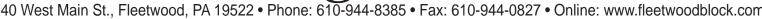
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SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE- SUPPLEMENT TO THE EAST PENN VALLEY MERCHANDISER FOR MARCH 25, 2015



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#### Explaining Carpet Fibers And Types

When buying carpet for the first time, homeowners can be overwhelmed with unfamiliar terminology. Navigating such terminology, not to mention the vast array of options inside typical carpeting stores, can be difficult and make carpet buyers nervous about making the right decision.

Values that Endure

Homeowners looking for carpeting for their homes are bound to hear about particular fibers and types of carpets. But

tear differently. Here are the five most popular carpet fibers: Nylon: Nylon is the most durable carpet fiber, and that has contributed to its popularity. Nylon is available in a wide range of styles and is a flexible material. Many nylon carpets come with a stain-resistant treatment to protect the material from common stains and spills.

· Polyester: Highly resistant to stains and fading, polyester is most expensive carpet fiber, but that cost is offset by its considerable durability and soft feel. Wool carpets can last several decades, but they also are high maintenance and not especially resistant to stains. CARPET TYPES

The type, or style, of carpet refers to how the carpet is designed. The type of carpet homeowners choose may depend on where in their homes the carpet will be installed.

Frieze: Frieze carpet, some-



such talk is lost when buvers don't understand carpet fibers and what makes each type of carpet unique. The following rundown of the various carpet fibers and types of carpet should help homeowners make more informed decisions. CARPET FIBERS

When a carpet salesman or store employee references "carpet fiber," he or she is referring to the type of material used to make a particular carpet. No two fibers are the same, as each feels different to the touch and reacts to routine wear and

soft, and today's polyester carpets are more resilient and durable than those of yesteryear. · Triexta: Triexta is a type of polyester fiber that is especially soft. A relatively recent addition to the market, triexta carpet fibers are especially susceptible to stains and spills.

 Olefin: Olefin carpet fibers are among the least expensive, thanks in part to its lack of durability compared to other fibers. Olefin carpet fibers repel UV rays and therefore don't fade when exposed to sunlight. • Wool: Wool tends to be the

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times referred to as twist carpet, is made of twisted strands of carpet, and many homeowners prefer frieze carpet because of its modern and stylish look. Frieze carpet can be somewhat expensive, which is why some homeowners install it in bedrooms and sitting rooms where it won't be susceptible to high traffic.

 Saxony/Cut pile: Saxony or cut pile carpet is ideal for high traffic areas, such as the living room or hallways. That's because it tends to be resistant to matting and crushing and still feels soft underfoot.

• Berber: Berber carpets, often referred to as loop carpets, are especially durable, making them strong options for high-traffic areas of a home. Though there are variations in loop carpets, a traditional loop carpet is created when yarn is sewn or tufted into the backing and left uncut. Choosing a carpet for a home is no small task, but homeowners who educate themselves about the various carpet fibers and styles can find the right fit for their homes.

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The Potentially Harmfull Effects Of Mold In Your Home

The presence of mold in a home is a sight few homeowners want to see. In addition to being unsightly, mold found in a home can be unhealthy.

While certain cleaners may prove effective at removing mold, homeowners who want to remove existing mold growths and prevent future growths may benefit from gaining a greater understanding of mold and why it grows inside homes.

#### WHAT IS MOLD?

Mold is a blanket term used to describe fungi that can be found both indoors and outdoors. Many species of mold exist, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that some estimates suggest there may be more than three hundred thousand different species of mold. Common indoor molds include cladosporium, penicillium, alternaria, and aspergillus. WHICH CONDITIONS PRO-MOTE MOLD GROWTH? Homeowners may notice that mold tends to grow in specific areas of their homes but not in others, and that's because molds grow best in certain conditions. Warm, damp and humid conditions, such as those found in poorly ventilated bathrooms and basements, make ideal breeding grounds for mold.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF MOLD EXPOSURE?

Molds are a natural and resilient part of the environment, but mold growth indoors should be addressed and avoided. Mold spores are tiny and invisible to the naked eye, and when these spores attach to wet surfaces, they begin to grow. Once these spores begin to grow, they can then affect people in various ways. Roughly a decade ago, the Institute of Medicine found suffi-

GENERATIONS OF QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP D'S TILE 547 Old 22, Lenhartsville, PA 19534 Business Phone: 484-857-5801 Business Fax: 484-857-5802 CHEE BENEFITS OF CERAMIC AND PORCELAIN TILE BEAUTY: The ceramic tile's vast selection of colors, styles, textures, sizes, and shapes will add beauty and style to any space or design theme. DESIGN VERSATILITY: Combination of sizes and shapes allow for freedom of expression and custom design.

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**WATER RESISTANCE:** Glazed or unglazed ceramic tile's composition permits little or no accumulation of moisture - porcelain tile absorbs none.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY:** Ceramic tile is inhospitable to germs and bacteria, not to mention allergens.

FIRE RESISTANT: Ceramic tile is essentially burnt clay which does not burn and give off toxic fumes.

**DURABLE:** A properly selected tile will outperform most, if not all, non-ceramic finishes created for the same application.

cient evidence to support a link between exposure to indoor mold and respiratory tract issues, such as coughing and wheezing in people who were otherwise healthy. The same report found that mold may trigger asthma symptoms among people with asthma and hypersensitivity pneumonitis, a disease in which the lungs are inflamed when a person breathes in certain dusts he or she is allergic to, in people susceptible to that condition.

Some people who do not have a preexisting condition can still be sensitive to molds. When exposed to mold, such people may experience symptoms like nasal stuffiness, eye irritation, wheezing, or skin irritation.

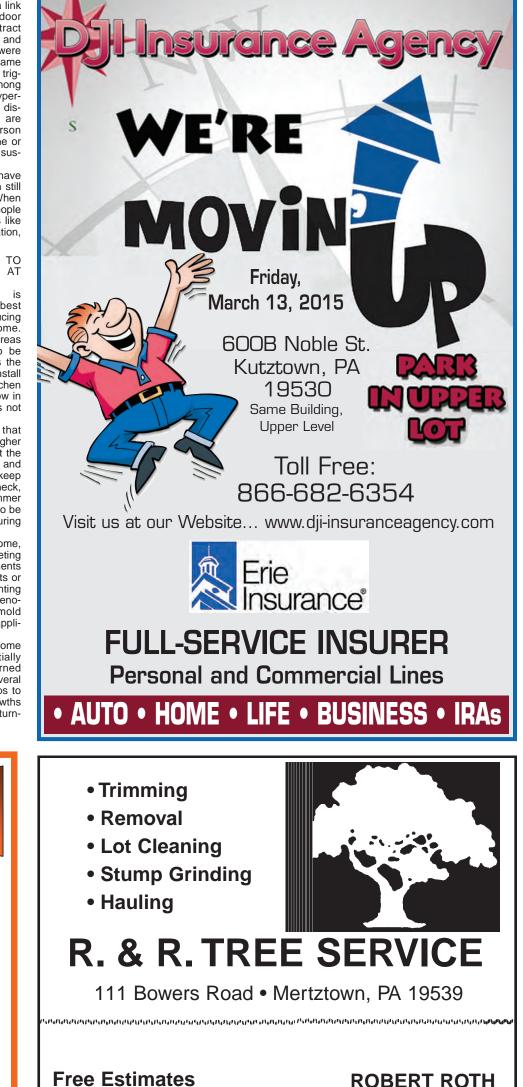
HOW CAN EXPOSURE TO MOLD BE DECREASED AT HOME?

Adequate ventilation is arguably homeowners' best friend with regard to reducing mold exposure at home. Control humidity levels in areas of the home that tend to be warm and humid, such as the kitchen and bathroom. Install an exhaust fan in the kitchen and bathroom and a window in the bathroom if yours does not already have one. The CDC recommends that

The CDC recommends that humidity levels be no higher than 50 percent throughout the day, and an air conditioner and dehumidifier can help you keep indoor humidity levels in check, especially during the summer when humidity levels tend to be their highest of any time during the year.

When renovating your home, remove any existing carpeting from bathrooms and basements and toss out soaked carpets or upholstery as well. If painting will be part of your home renovation projects, add mold inhibitors to paints prior to application.

Mold that grows inside a home is unsightly and potentially unhealthy. But concerned homeowners can take several reactive and proactive steps to reduce existing mold growths and prevent them from returning in the future.





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Bountiful, healthy trees can be beautiful to behold and important contributors to a thriving environment. According to American Forests, a nonprofit conservation organization, a tree can absorb as much as 40 pounds of carbon dioxide per vear and can sequester one ton of carbon dioxide by the time the tree reaches age 40. The United States Forest Service adds that trees placed properly around a home can reduce air conditioning and heating demands considerably.

Many homeowners are content to leave healthy trees alone. However, trees eventually must be pruned or removed if they become safety risks or pose other threats. Trees with roots that are damaging home foundations or those with limbs overhanging property limits or power lines can be trouble-some. Although homeowners can handle relatively minor tree maintenance, for a variety of reasons, many tree projects are best left to the professionals.

#### Pruning Trees A Job Best Left To The Pros shock. Improper pruning tech-nique also can lead to an

unsightly tree. LIABILITY

A professional tree service will possess the correct liability and worker's compensation insurance. This protects homeowners against litigation should someone be injured while tree work is being done.

Homeowners who damage neighboring properties when cutting down a tree may find that they are not covered by their homeowner's insurance policies. This can be a costly mistake that's easily avoided by simply hiring a fully insured tree removal service.

THE RIGHT TOOLS The right tools can mean the difference between a job done correctly and one that results in disaster. Professional arborists tree services have and acquired the training, tools and techniques to perform the job safely. This includes using the right tools to tackle the job. Ropes, pulleys, cranes, stump grinders, and other heavy machinery are just a few of the tools tree services have at their disposal that the average homeowner does not.

Trimming or removing trees can be an unpredictable and potentially dangerous endeavor. Such work is best left to professionals.



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Professional tree contractors recognize and understand the hazards associated with tree and limb removal. Many operate in accordance with national or local guidelines to maintain proper clearance of power lines and structures.

Trimming trees close to electrical lines puts a person at risk of electrocuted. being Professionals know how to protect themselves and prevent power outages, which can result when limbs come into contact with power lines.

Professional tree services will use machinery appropriate for the task. Cherrypickers and cranes may lift workers to the correct height to work on trees, while do-it-yourselfers who rely on climbing trees or using ladders are at risk of injury.

PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE TREE

Many tree services understand the proper way to prune trees to minimize stress and damage to the tree itself. Novice pruners may inadvertently do more harm than good, resulting in proliferation of tree disease or



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just beginning to embrace their inner landscaper may notice

their neighbors using a machine

to punch holes in their lawns and

wonder what they're doing.

While aeration is slightly more

complicated than simply punch-

ing holes in a lawn, that's likely

what your neighbors are up to when you see them manning an

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#### Explaining Aeration

Aeration is practiced so lawns can grow deeper roots, as pok-ing holes in the surface breaks compacted soil, thereby up allowing air, nutrients and water to reach the root system. Over time, a lawn that is not aer-

ated is likely to feature compacted soil that won't absorb water and nutrients, which are essential to maintaining a healthy lawn.

Lawns that are not aerated also tend to build up thatch. Thatch is a matted laver of materials that can build up in a lawn over time.

Grass clippings and other debris might not stick to your shoe when you walk through the yard, but they are combining to create thatch just below the surface of the grass. That thatch also makes it difficult for water and nutrients to reach the soil where they can promote strong, healthy root systems. Aeration helps to combat the buildup of thatch and promote a healthy lawn.

Homeowners with little experi-ence caring for their lawns may want to consult professionals before tackling the project themselves. Many professional landscaping services have experience in aerating lawns, which can be labor-intensive. Aerating is not necessarily a difficult task but some aerators do not cover much soil surface with each

pass they make, so it can take a while to complete a full aeration of your lawn. In addition, some homeowners may be uncomfortable operating an aerator, and that can lead to mistakes that can harm a lawn. Homeowners pressed for time or those concerned about their ability to operate an aerator may benefit from hiring professionals and then watching how the pros do it. If you watch carefully, you might be more confident come the next time your lawn needs to be aerated

HOW OFTEN SHOULD I AERATE? Lawns that are not subject to heavy use can go longer between aerations than those with more frequent use. If kids play in the yard every day or if you routinely host parties where guests spend lots of time in the

Projects

yard, your lawn will benefit from more frequent aeration. Speak to a landscaping professional about how often your property needs to be aerated, as there may be certain region-specific variables that will influence how frequently a lawn should be aerated.

WHEN SHOULD I AERATE?

Landscaping professionals rec-ommend aerating lawns during the growing season, when holes created by aeration can be filled by growing grass. Homeowners should consult with a landscaping professional about when to aerate their lawns, as the type of grass may also determine the best time to aerate.

Aeration is a great way for homeowners to ensure their lawns stay lush and healthy for years to come



lush

a relatively simple way to ensure

Lawn aeration is the practice of

perforating the surface of a lawn

in an effort to promote stronger roots and a healthier landscape.

A host of factors, from inclement

weather to kids using the yard as

a playground to the type of grass in a yard, can make it difficult for

lawns to thrive. Aerating is a way

to counter some of the things

that prevent lawns from looking

your lawn stays healthy. WHAT IS AERATION?

outage and gas pumps don't work without electricity.

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#### Break Ground With The Right Tools

The right tools for the job can be the difference between an interminable landscaping project and one that goes smaoothly and efficiently. Aspiring landscapers probably have a few shovels and rakes hanging in their garages and sheds for basic landscaping work. But while such tools are effective for certain projects, when it comes to churning soil for garden beds or digging holes for outdoor structures, additional tools come in handy. It may be well worth a trip to a nearby home center to pur-chase or rent one of these tools ideal for breaking ground.

#### ROTOTILLER

A rototiller, sometimes called just a "tiller," is a powered garden tool designed to loosen soil prior to planting. A rototiller also can help aerate soil during the growing season. Because they reduce the need for manual spade digging or hoeing, tillers can be useful landscaping tools, particularly for homeowners who want to work efficiently. Rototillers will break through tough soil and any plant roots. They come in a variety of sizes, and it's best to match the tool to the size of the job. Many homeowners can get by with smaller, less powerful models, especially if the tiller is only necessary at the beginning of planting season. Professional landscapers or those with large swatches of property may benefit from larger models.

#### AUGER

Augers, both mechanical and manual, are essentially large

some are even motorized. Cultivators get close to plants to remove weeds without disturb-ing the plant. They also are used to stir in compost or fertilizer.

While many people think cultivators and tillers are the same, that is not the case. The former is less powerful and will mix the soil or stir up the top laver, while the latter can break up moderately hard ground and loosen firm soil.

When using any tools around the garden, wear the proper protection. This includes devices to protect hearing when power tools are in use as well as gloves and safety goggles. Tillers, augers and cultivators have the potential to toss soil and rocks into the air. so make sure others keep their distance while work is in progress.

Proper tools can churn up soil in a short amount of time to make landscaping projects that much easier.

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drill bits that help move materials from one location to another. Augers are typically used to cut holes in landscapes, and they are good for post-hole drilling, which is part of the process of installing deck footings, fencing posts or other structures. Augers come in a variety of sizes, and homeowners can choose how much power they prefer. Augers can be heavy and cumbersome, and many do-it-yourselfers will find that one-person augers are more than adequate for their projects.

Augers dig deep holes, so it is always smart to have the property surveyed prior to use. This way pipes, gas lines, buried electrical lines, and any other obstructions are clearly identified prior to drilling.

#### CULTIVATOR

Cultivators are similar to tillers in that they loosen soil. Cultivators are effective during the growth period of plants, when they can be used to aerate the soil and remove weeds. Cultivators come in hand-held versions and push models, and

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Options Abound When Laying A New Driveway

A driveway is more than just a place to park your car. The right driveway material can add considerable curb appeal to your home, increasing its resale value along the way.

Homeowners have manv options at their disposal when choosing a driveway material, and the right material for one home may not be the best fit for another. The following is a rundown of popular driveway surfaces and what homeowners can expect of each of them. BRICK

Many homeowners believe brick driveways provide the most aesthetic appeal, and it's hard to argue with the beauty of brick driveways and walkways. Brick driveways come in various colors and hues, and many homeowners opt to have the color of their brick driveways match their landscaping, which further adds to curb appeal. But that curb appeal is only appealing if the driveway is designed and installed correctly, and homeowners can expect to pay

a premium for that, as brick driveway installation is very labor intensive. GRAVEL

Gravel driveways may not be as commonplace as they once were, but this cost effective driveway material is still an option. Homeowners who live in regions with mild winters without snow might benefit most from gravel driveways, which can be difficult to negotiate when shoveling snow. Gravel tends to be the least expensive driveway material to install, but professionals may recommend that a new top layer of gravel be laid once or twice a year to replace material lost to wind and everyday usage. ASPHALT

Asphalt remains a popular driveway material, thanks in large part to its practicality and ease of installation. Unlike other drimaterials, surface veway asphalt is available in just one color, black, and that lack of versatility has led many homeowners to consider other options. But asphalt remains an affordable driveway surface material that's relatively easy to repair. Cracks and holes in asphalt are somewhat common, but resealing such blemishes once every three to five years is typically enough to maintain the appearance of an asphalt driveway. CONCRETE

Concrete driveways are popular thanks in large part to their affordability and aesthetic appeal. Concrete can be susceptible to extremely cold weather, but many homeowners prefer concrete because of its versatility. Concrete can be stamped or dyed to provide a unique look, which can increase curb appeal. Concrete can be expensive to maintain, particularly when the material cracks. In addition, gas and oil spills are more noticeable on a concrete surface than other driveway surface materials.

When replacing an existing driveway, homeowners have an array of new surface materials to choose from, and each material has its pros and cons.



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Power Tool Safety Tips Power tools can dramatically reduce the time it takes to complete home improvement projects. Professional contractors regularly rely on power tools for cutting and sanding, and many do-it-yourself renovators follow suit and invest in power tools to help get the job done. But power tools, in spite of their usefulness, are not without risk. According to the Work Safe Center, power tool iniuries account for as many as 400,000 emergency room visits in the United States each year. Power nailers, chain saws and table saws account for the greatest number of injuries. Keeping safe is of the utmost priority when using power tools. Here's how: Read all manufacturers' instructions and guidelines before use. · Keep your tools clean and in proper operating condition. Use the right tool for the job.

power tools and ensure proper installation. • Unplug all power tools during breaks and anytime when tools

are not in use. · Routinely inspect tools for damage.

Keep tools stored in secure locations when not in use.

#### Did You Know...

Damage to a lawn may be indica-tive of various problems. Everything from insects to rodents to the family pet may be responsible for causing burnt patches, holes and other eyesores. Getting to the bottom of the problem is the first step in remediation. Burning and discoloration of the lawn is often a result of high concentrations of dog urine pooling in one area. Diluting the urine by hosing down areas of the lawn can clear up many problems. · Always wear eye protection, Birds, raccoons, skunks, moles, such as safety glasses or goggles. and other rodents may reed on · Wear standard cotton or leather grubs that reside just under the work gloves to protect hands. thatch of the lawn, and animals may tear up lawns in search of Consider the use of earplugs or earmuffs with loud power tools. this delicacy. Treating the grub · Don't use power tools in proxproblem usually alleviates damimity to flammable vapors, dust age caused by animals. Mole or construction materials. crickets are another common · Always check that wires are lawn destroyer. These insects kept away from blades. resemble crickets, but they burrow beneath the turf to feed on Maintain a tight grip on a tool. · Do not overreach when using plant roots. The mole crickets can push up channels of turf as they tools, and maintain balance. · Pay attention when working burrow, exposing roots to the elements and causing the grass to • Only use attachments specifi-cally recommended for the die. Getting rid of the insects can revitalize the lawn.





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Warmer temperatures and longer hours of sunlight can recharge energy levels. Upon the arrival of spring, homeowners dust off their to-do lists and charge ahead with renewed vigor. But before homeowners can

get started on renovation projects, many must tame the existing mess that may have built up over the winter. Spring is a great time to dive into spring cleaning projects and ready a home for a season of renovation and remodeling.

Getting started on spring cleaning can be a tad overwhelming. In 2012, OnePoll asked 1,000 adults living in the United Kingdom how they felt about spring cleaning, and 41 percent of those surveyed found spring cleaning a daunting process while 68 percent had negative feelings about spring cleaning. But in spite of that initial lack of enthusiasm, respondents said they felt happy and more organized once they finished their spring cleaning. Establishing a plan and setting reachable goals can make spring cleaning a lot less daunting. · Set aside several days for spring cleaning. A long weekend is a great time to do some spring cleaning, as having consecutive days to clean will reduce the chances you grow distracted. Make a list and purchase all of the supplies you will need. Again, this will help you stay on course, rather than going out to the store to pick up cleaners or organizational systems. Try to set reasonable goals. Even if you hope to clean the entire house, stick to the one or two rooms that are most desperate for your attention. Divide each task into a series of steps so when you comaplete each step you will feel proud that you're making progress. Create your musical playlist. A playlist full of your favorite songs can provide some inspiration and energy to push you through the spring cleaning when your enthusiasm starts to wane. The music also may take your mind off of the work ahead and help to pass the time.

#### Get Started Now On Spring Cleaning

• Start from the top and work downward. Follow a logical cleaning order. Begin by dusting away cobwebs and lighting fixtures. Clean light switches and walls. Empty closets and then restock them in a more organized fashion. Leave the furniture and flooring for last, as dirt and dust may accumulate on furniture and flooring as you clean other areas of the home. · Be prepared to bid adieu to some of your stuff. Have a few trash bags at the ready. Reorganize items you won't be keeping into separate piles, with one pile for items you plan to donate and another for those items you will discard. Donate what you can and promptly put the remainder of the items at the curb for pickup.

Stay fed and hydrated. Cleaning can be physically and emotionally exhausting. Take breaks to fuel up on food and always have a refreshing bev-

erage close by. Following a few guidelines can make the process of spring quickly cleaning go and smoothly



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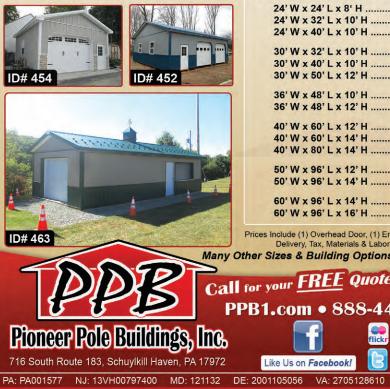
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SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT GUIDE- SUPPLEMENT TO THE EAST PENN VALLEY MERCHANDISER FOR MARCH 25, 2015



Home improvement projects can turn a house into a home. Homeowners plan scores of renovations to transform living spaces into rooms that reflect their personal tastes and comforts.

Homeowners going it alone may find things do not always go as planned. In fact, a Harris Interactive study found that 85 percent of homeowners say remodeling is a more stressful undertaking than buying a home. But homeowners about to embark on home improvement projects can make the process go more smoothly by avoiding these common pitfalls.

Common Mistakes Made On Home Renovation Projects they have made until they get their hands dirty. But understanding the scope of the project, including how much demo-lition and reconstruction is involved and how much time a project will take can help homeowners avoid some of the stress that comes with renovation projects. For example, a bathroom renovation may require the removal of drywall, reinforcement of flooring to accommodate a new bathtub or shower enclosure and the installation of new plumbing and wiring behind walls. So such a renovation is far more detailed than simply replacing

projects do not drain their finances. If your budget is so inflexible that you can't afford the materials you prefer, you may want to postpone the project and save more money so you can eventually afford to do it right.

Without a budget in place, it is easy to overspend, and that can put you in financial peril down the line. Worrying about coming up with money to pay for materials and labor also can induce stress. Avoid the anxiety by setting a firm budget.

MAKING TRENDY OR OVER-PERSONAL IMPROVEMENTS

EXPECTING EVERYTHING TO GO AS PLANNED Optimism is great, but you also should be a realist. Knowing what potentially could go wrong puts you in a better position to handle any problems should they arise. The project might go off without a hitch, but plan for a

few hiccups along the way

OVERESTIMATING DIY ABILITIES

Overzealous homeowners may see a renovation project in a magazine or on television and immediately think they can do the work themselves. Unless you have the tools and the skills necessary to do the work, tackling too much can be problem-

atic. In the long run, leaving the work to a professional may save you money.

Home improvements can be stressful, but homeowners can lessen that stress by avoiding common renovation mistakes.

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FAILING TO UNDERSTAND

#### THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Some homeowners don't realize just how big a commitment

#### faucets.

#### NOT ESTABLISHING A BUDGET

Homeowners must develop a project budget to ensure their



Homeowners who plan to stay in their homes for the long run have more free reign when it comes to renovating their homes. Such homeowners can create a billiards room or paint a room hot pink if they so prefer. However, if the goal is to make improvements in order to sell a property, overly personal touches may make a property less appealing to prospective buyers. Trends come and go, and improvements can be expensive. If your ultimate goal is to sell your home, opt for renovations that will look beautiful through the ages and avoid bold choices that may only appeal to a select few buyers.

#### FORGETTING TO PROPERLY VET ALL WORKERS

It is important to vet your contractor, but don't forget to vet potential subcontractors as well. Failing to do so can prove a costly mistake. Contractors often look to subcontractors to perform certain parts of a job, and it is the responsibility of homeowners to vet these workers.

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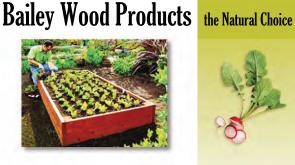
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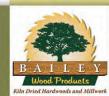


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Garden-Inspired Decor Brightens Spaces And Mood

Many homeowners take up gardening to transform their homes with beautiful flowers and foliage, while others do so to yield fresh fruits and vegetables. But gardening can be more than just a weekend hobby. In fact, it may be especially beneficial for homeowners to surround themselves with more plants and natural decor, whether in the yard or in the home.

Studies have indicated that gardening can be good for the mind and body. In addition to improving mood and reducing stress, plant life and gardening also may help people have a more hopeful outlook on life. If reaping the benefit of a beautiful landscape is not reason enough to get into gardening, elevating your mood and coping with depression or illness may be even further motivation to start developing your green thumb. Home-design trends seem to be following suit, offering indi-

viduals more opportunities to surround themselves with potentially therapeutic plants. Explore these emerging and established garden décor trends to try in and around your home.

Living wall planters: A living wall planter can add greenery to any décor without taking up floor or table space. Ideal for outdoor structures. these planters also can be used indoors if you safeguard against leaks and dripping. A living wall planter is a framed device that houses plants in a manner that enables them to be vertically mounted to a wall surface. While there are commercially available models, you can create your own design and paint or stain it to match the existing décor. Use a soil-free potting substrate to avoid the mess that regular soil may create.

Combining fish with gardening: Enjoy the best of two relaxing worlds by installing a water feature in your yard. Garden retailers offer ready-made kits that can make fast work of establishing a pond or other water feature in the backyard. Otherwise, there are plenty of water garden companies and installers who can suggest a design and put in your desired water features. Add fish suitable for outdoor life to your pond. These include koi and certain goldfish varieties. Game fish are discouraged because they can destroy pond plants. If an outdoor pond is more maintenance than you desire, consider an indoor aquarium with a combination of fish and live aquarium plants.

Creative furniture designs: Maybe you're a person who appreciates the unique and whimsical? Tables, benches and chairs can be built with planting channels that enable you to have greenery and garden décor in one piece. Envision a picnic table with a cutout down the center for a thin row of plants or decorative grasses. This is a project the entire family can get behind, as the more creative ideas the better.

Improved outdoor lighting: People who like to spend time in their gardens and vards may not want to be limited by sunrise and sunset. By incorporating different lighting sources, you can create a retreat that is welcoming at any hour. Although flood lights and overhead lights can illuminate a space, consider ambient and decorative lighting to create the desired ambiance. • Functional fire pits and places: A blazing fire creates a cozy spot to gather on chilly evenings, but fire pits and fireplaces also can be used as impromptu cooking spots for s'mores or frankfurters on a stick. You can purchase a stand-alone fire pit from any number of retailers or build your own with patio pavers and fire bricks to line the interior of the fire pit. Outdoor fireplaces require more work, and you want to hire a mason to ensure proper installation. Énjoyable yard additions: While plants and seating may take center stage, some people still want to have fun in their yards. There's an increased demand for yard designs and décor that can put the fun in backyard living. Bocce courts, ring- or horseshoe-toss setups,

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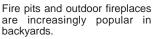
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as well as bean bag-toss boards, can be incorporated into landscape designs, giving you yet another reason to spend a few hours in the great outdoors, where you can experience a few healthy laughs in the process

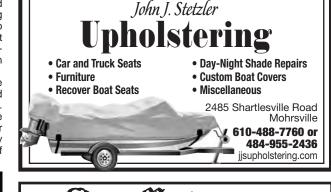
Gardening and spending time outdoors are great hobbies and may even boost your mood. Homeowners can explore the popular trends in garden décor and natural elements that they can enjoy inside and outside of their homes





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The Relationship Between Paint And Mood

Painting is one of the easiest and least expensive ways to transform the look of a space. The colors homeowners choose for their walls can give rooms their own unique feel and even affect the moods of the people within them.

Finding the right shade for a bedroom or kitchen involves more than just selecting the first color that catches your eye. Design experts and psychologists alike say it may be worth-while to choose a color that helps you feel good rather than just following design trends. The paint color you pick may add energy to a space or create a tranquil retreat where you can unwind at the end of the day. BLUE:

To create a spa-like environment and a more serene space, look to shades of blue in soft variations. Cool blues are soothing colors that can help lower stress levels and promote sleep. That's why blue is a frequent fixture in bedrooms and bathrooms. Just be advised that too much blue can make a room appear cold and stark, so balance out blue with some warmer accents. ORANGE: Many people do not immediately consider bright orange for their homes, but when used as an accent shade, orange can really brighten up a home. Orange is considered a shade that expands creativity and imparts a youthful appeal to a space. Consider an orange accent wall or a burst of color with orange throw pillows. If pumpkin orange is a little too bold for you, tone it down by choosing a more pastel, peachy hue, which is equally warm and energizing. RFD:

Red stimulates energy and appetite, which is why the shade is so popular in restaurants and home dining spaces. Red is a good choice for social gathering rooms but may not be the wisest choice for a bedroom, as the color may prove overstimulating. GREEN:

Green can evoke composure and tranquility and works in any room of the house. Since green is the primary color of nature, it also works well for those people who want to bring some of the outdoors inside and work with the fresh starts and new growth that green can inspire. To make green feel less subdued and sleepy, work with its complementary opposite, red, by using a few bold red accents here and there to balance out the tranquility of green. PURPLE:

People have long related purple to royalty, and this dramatic color can add a formal, regal aspect to a home depending on the hue. Purple also may help stimulate the creative side of the brain. In paler shades of lavender, purple can seem almost ethereal and spiritual. Some designers suggest avoiding purple in a bedroom because that is a place you want your brain to rest rather than be stimulated. YELLOW:

Few colors are more vibrant than yellow, which can help stimulate conversation and make thoughts more focused. A luminous shade of yellow is an ideal way to make any space more welcoming and bright. Just use it sparingly, as too much yellow may not be a good thing. Yellow accents mixed with touches of purple can offer the balance needed to prevent yellow rooms from overwhelming residents and guests.

Home decorators should keep in mind that colors can be blended to create the desired environment. A color scheme based on complementary colors, or those opposite on the color wheel, may fit. Otherwise, analogous color schemes, or those colors that are next to one another on the color wheel, can create a variation that suits your design needs.

### Stay Cool Without Air Conditioning

Hot, steamy weather can derail the best intentions of reducing energy consumption. As temperatures soar, few can resist the temptation to crank the air conditioning unit and relax in some frosty comfort. However, relying too heavily on air conditioning can compromise the efforts of men and women hoping to advant their actheur fort

between these components. Refrigerant fluid is pumped through the tubing and fins surrounding the evaporator and condenser coils. When the fluid reaches the indoor coil, it evaporates, taking heat with it and cooling the air that will be pumped inside. The pump then moves the gaseous refrigerant over to the outdoor coil where it condenses, transferring that heat to the air that will be expelled from the building. Compressors, fans and addi-tional components of air conditioning systems require a lot of energy and power.

to get a good night's rest. \* Change your home's color scheme. A light-colored roof and siding will help reflect the sun's rays rather than absorb them. This can make a home considerably cooler.

\* Plant shade trees. Trees can stop sunlight from baking a home or backyard. Trees also absorb and sequester carbon dioxide emissions, which makes them beneficial to the environment for a variety of reasons.



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ing to reduce their carbon footprints.

It is estimated that up to 50 percent of electricity used during the warm weather season is for air conditioning. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy says energy consumption for home air conditioning accounts for more than 8 percent of all the electricity produced in the United States, costing homeowners more than \$15 billion annually. This translates to roughly 195 million tons of carbon dioxide, an average of almost two tons per year, for homes with air conditioning. Air conditioning costs and energy usage vary widely depending on the type and age of a unit, the size of a home, how well air conditioners are maintained and many other factors

Air conditioners work similarly to refrigerators. Evaporator and condenser coils either distribute cool air into the home or release hot air outdoors. When an air conditioner is running, a great deal of heat can be expelled outdoors. Air conditioners use pumps known as compressors to transfer heat Page 14 Reducing reliance on air conditioning can lower energy bills and benefit the environment. Before turning on your air conditioning unit this summer, consider these cooling tips.

\* Use cool water. Run your hands, head and feet under cold water. This will cool down the blood in key pressure points of the body and keep you feeling cool for an hour or more.

\* Run fans in a counter-clockwise position. Ceiling fans come equipped with a switch that enables you to change the blades' spinning direction. Counter-clockwise will draw the cooler air up from the floor and distribute it throughout the room.

\* Dress sparingly. While in the comfort of home, wear minimal clothing to remain cooler. Sleep in less clothing and remove covers if you're finding it difficult \* Open windows and doors at night. Open windows to allow cool nighttime air to enter. Open interior doors (including closets) to allow trapped, hot air to be released. This may help cool the home down a few degrees.

\* Avoid steam and heat-producing appliances. Dishwashers, ovens and hot showers can add extra heat to an already warm home. Wait until the evening before running appliances. Stick to cool showers and cook outdoors if possible.

\* Insulate your home. A home that has a well-insulated attic and walls will keep the heat out of the house during the hotter months of the year.

Air conditioning systems use a great deal of energy, but ecoconscious homeowners can explore other methods of keeping cool to help lessen their reliance on air conditioners this year.

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### Tips For Homeowners On Their First Renovation Projects

Home renovations are typically exciting, as homeowners get to see the visions of their dream homes come to light right before their very eyes. Turning an outdated bathroom into a modern oasis or an empty basement into the ultimate man cave strengthens the sense of attachment homeowners have with their homes.

But few home renovation projects go from start to finish with-out experiencing a few bumps in the road along the way. Such bumps can be difficult to handle for homeowners working on their first renovation projects, but there are many ways for novices to navigate the sometimes murky waters of home improvement projects and come out relatively unscathed on the other end, where a newly renovated home awaits.

· Plan well and know what to expect. When working with contractors, get all agreements in writing and spell out exactly what you desire in a home renovation. Photo references can help guide contractors and architects. Ask for the full picture of what can be expected with the work, from demolition to the punch list. Knowing what lies ahead can keep you grounded throughout the project. · Discuss work each day and set payment schedules. Make payments contingent on work completed. This can help keep contractors on schedule. Paying for all work upfront leaves homeowners at a disadvantage, as it does not provide incentive for workers to be timely and efficient. Check in with workers to get daily progress reports. Have reasonable expectations. A renovation project may exceed its budget and take longer than initially expected. Understanding that these potential setbacks might be part of the process will make it easier to handle them when the foreman speaks to you about any issues that arise.

home in disarray can be stressful, but continue to visualize the end result and the mess won't

bother you so much. Establish a contingency plan. Bathrooms and kitchen renovations are typically the most disruptive home improvement pro-jects. Going without a kitchen can make it difficult to enjoy meals at home, while a bathroom remodel may require you to navigate water shutoffs. If your project is scheduled to take several months, establish a contingency plan to deal with the consequences of your renovation project. Speak with familv members about using some of their home amenities, and prepare and freeze meals in advance so you can reheat them later on when you don't have access to your stove.



Plan your escape. Sometimes the constant work and mess of construction is too much to bear. Afford yourself time away by visiting relatives or staying at a hotel. Even a single night away can provide the relief you need

A home that is undergoing a remodel can be a less than comfortable environmenta. But homeowners who have never before lived through a renovation project can take several steps to make the process go as smoothly as possible.

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Accept the mess. Construction work is messy. There's no way to maintain a pristine house when contractors are entering and exiting all day. Dust is bound to be generated, and tools can fill up rooms. A

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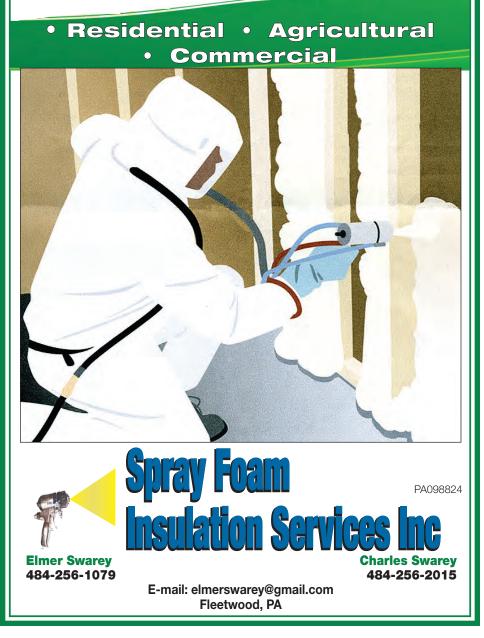


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#### Secrets To Keeping An Organized Shed

Despite other intentions, homeowners often turn their garages into storage centers for random, little-used items, leaving little to no room for the tools and even vehicles that actually belong in a garage. Such homeowners may turn to sheds to store their garage overflow and keep yard equipment at the ready, but storage sheds are not immune to clutter, and homeowners may find the very structure erected to keep them organized requires a bit of organization itself.

A well-organized shed can save homeowners time and energy, cabinets can be installed in the as it's easy to abandon or delay shed to organize additional a project if you can't find that dren safe. items. Make sure the shed floor is sturdy and level. This makes it pair of work gloves you stashed. The first step to any organizing project is to take In order to remember where items go, label or sort them accordingly. Some people like everything out of the shed and to take organization a step furdetermine just what needs to go ther by tracing the outline of tools hung on the wall so they can be placed back in the same back in. Items that do not belong in the shed should be moved to their rightful locations spot after use. This also serves or tossed in the trash if they're as a visual reminder of which have no longer needed. Make a pile tools are missing and which around. Taking the time to clean and organize a shed can help make of anything that will be kept, a separate one for donations and a third for garbage. Take invenones need to be purchased. Don't forget to utilize shed doors as additional storage anyone more productive. tory of what you have so you space. Hang frequently used know whether you're missing tools, such as rakes and shovany items or you have someels, on the inside of the doors garage. thing and do not need to purso they will always be easily chase another. accessible.

Now that the entire shed is empty, you can assess just how much room you have. Utilizing vertical and overhead space effectively can free up areas on the floor for larger equipment. Shelving, racks, pegboards and any other materials that enable you to hang or store items off the floor are good investments. Visit your nearby home improvement retailer to find items that can simplify your storage. You also may be able to put scrap wood to use to make your own storage shelves or a work bench. Extra kitchen

You also can repurpose stor-age solutions designed for other areas of the home. For example, magnetic knife holders can be mounted to a shed wall to keep paintbrushes orga-nized. These holders also can be used to keep many small metal tools tidy. Metal funnels can hold twine and string. Thread through the narrow end of the funnel for a handy dispenser

Keep dangerous substances off the floor and out of reach. Gasoline, chemical fertilizers and other potentially dangerous substances should be stored high up to keep pets and chil-

easier to neatly store larger items. Roll in the lawnmower, wheelbarrow and any other cumbersome items. Now that more things are mounted vertically, you should find that you more area to move

#### Explore The Alternatives To Granite Countertops

Granite has long been a popular countertop material for homeowners looking to combine functionality with aesthetic appeal in their kitchens. But granite is no small investment, and homeowners looking to refurbish their kitchens should know there are a multitude of countertop materials available to those working on a budget or those who simply want to give their kitchens a different look.Solid wood: Wood counter-

tops create a warm, homey interior. Butcher block counters are less expensive than granite and do not necessarily need to be ordered from a speciality retailer. But wood can stain and dent and can even burn when hot kitchenware is placed atop it. Regular application of oil can help homeowners maintain the appearance of their wood counters for years to come.

Marble: Marble tends to be less expensive than granite without sacrificing aesthetic appeal. However, marble is softer and more porous than granite, so it can stain and be etched. Diligence in wiping away spills, routine sealing and a gentle touch is necessary for those who choose marble countertops.

• Soapstone: This is a natural stone composed mainly of mineral talc that gives the stone its smooth feel. Soapstone ranges from black to gray but can sometimes have a green shade to it. Other materials in the stone can produce veining. Although softer than granite, soapstone is still high-density and will hold up well. It's impervious to stains and bacteria, and exposure to chemicals will not damage it.

· Quartz: Quartz is a manufactured product made of stone aggregate and polymers compressed under high pressure. It has the look of natural stone but requires less work to maintain. Quartz has consistent colors and patterns and is a nonporous material, so it will not need routine sealing and Glass: Glass countertops are

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back-painted, so homeowners can order just about any color they want. Glass will be tempered, so it is safe and heatresistant. Glass can scratch,

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though, so it is not as impervi-

ous as other materials. Concrete: Concrete is another material that can be colored to match homeowners' whims. Concrete is relatively inexpensive compared to other countertop materials, but it can crack or chip.

While granite is a popular coun-tertop material, homeowners who want something new have many additional options at their disposal.



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#### The Many Benefits Of Hiring A Professional Landscaper

The flowers are blooming, and the grass has begun to grow anew, making spring a great time for homeowners to once again turn their attention to landscaping. Those who aren't looking forward to dusting off their lawnmowers and rethreading their string trimmers may want to hire professional landscapers to tend to their lawns and gardens.

A recent joint study by the National Gardening Association, Residential Lawn and Landscape Services and the Value of Landscaping found that homeowners spend roughly \$45 billion per year on professional lawn and landscape services, as nearly 30 percent of all households across the United States use at least one type of lawn or landscape service. The rising use of lawn care services is indicative of homeowners' appreciation of the convenience and craftsmanship professional services can provide. While the impact professional landscapers can a property s appeal is considerable, homeowners also benefit from working with professional landscapers in various other ways. • Time savings: One of the biggest benefits of leaving lawn care to the professionals is the amount of time it will save for

the average homeowner. Lawns generally need to be mowed once per week during the spring and summer sea-sons and, depending on the size of the property, that can take an hour or more. Add the time it takes to clean up clippings, mulch landscaping beds and edge the property, and homeowners can expect to devote a significant chunk of their weekends to caring for their lawns. Lawn services employ a few workers who make fast work of the job, leaving homeowners time to enjoy their weekends however they see fit.

• Reduced risk for injury: Maintaining a landscape is hard work, and those unaccustomed to this type of activity may find themselves winded or at risk of injury. Improper use of lawn equipment also is a safety hazard. Leaving the work to professionals can help homeowners avoid strained backs, lacerations, pulled muscles, sunburns, and any other dangers can result when landscaping projects. • Financial savings: On the surface, hiring a landscaping service may seem like a costly venture. However, after crunching some numbers, many homeowners realize that doing the work themselves may cost more in the long run than hiring a professional landscaping service. Homeowners who decide to go it alone must purchase expensive equipment, and those lawn tools will require routine maintenance, which money. costs additional Inexperienced homeowners may incur extra fees to "fix" mistakes that occur during the learning process. Each year, new seed, fertilizer, mulch, pesticides, and other supplies also must be purchased. But professional lawn care services typically charge a set fee per month, and that fee covers the maintenance of both your property and the equipment needed to keep that property looking great.

 Know-how: Many professional landscapers know how to address lawn care issues that may arise throughout the year. They will know how to deal with dry patches of lawn or poorly draining areas, and they also can make recommendations on plants that will thrive under cer-



 One-stop shopping: Certain landscaping services provide many different options for prospective customers. Basic lawn cuts may be one package, but there also may be services for seasonal seeding, weeding, st leaf clean-up, and winterizing.

• Consistent maintenance: Homeowners who frequently travel or spend much of their summers away from home often find that lawn care companies are a wise investment. Established weekly schedules ensure the landscape always will look its best whether homeowners are home or out of town.

Spring is a great time for homeowners to decide if hiring professional landscaping services is in their best interests. The time and money saved, as well as impact professional landscapers can have on a property, makes landscaping services a great investment for many homeowners.

Time saved and a professional job are just two of the reasons homeowners hire lawn care companies.

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#### Home Additions: Up Or Out?

Homeowners hoping to expand their homes are faced with a number of choices. One of the first they will have to make is which direction to take their expansion. Homeowners can choose to expand horizontally, increasing the footprint of their homes, or vertically.

Professionals urge prospective remodelers to consider the pros and cons to each expansion option, including which direction to build.

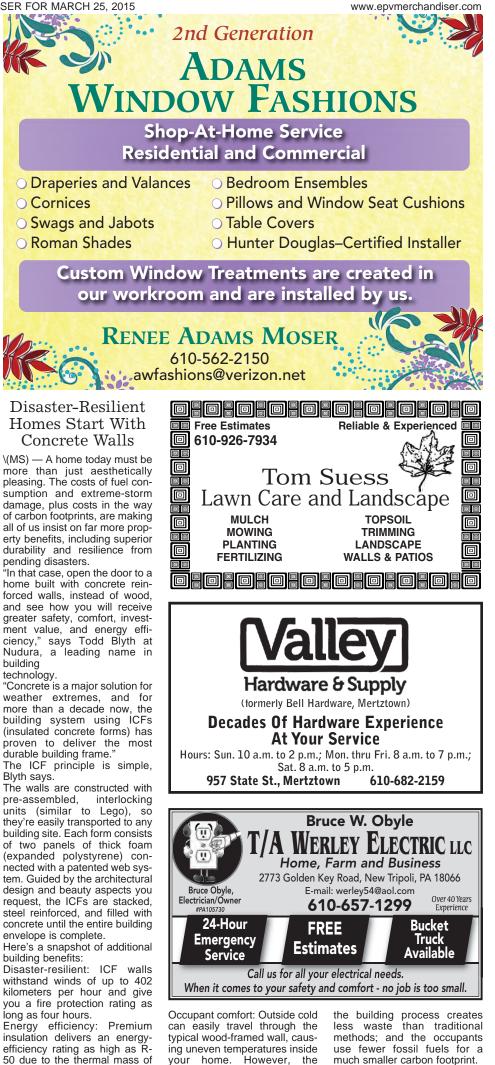
One of the first considerations is land space. Building horizontally will cut into yard space that you may have already earmarked for a pool, shed or another feature. Proximity to neighbors and the dimensions of your property will also help to determine if expanding horizontally is a good idea. Building codes and neighborhood requirements also must be considered before making any renovations. Some municipalities may have rules in place that govern renovations. Addons may not be allowed to exceed certain height limits, nor may structures be built within a certain number of feet of property lines.

Homeowners who choose to build upward will have to contend with work crews and other staff being in their homes. Raising the roof may require vacating the premises at a certain point. Also, extensive renovation work will be needed on the lower level of the home, whether it's to shore up the structure, clean up after the

renovation or repair ceilings, drywall and other components where levels meet.

It may seem easier to expand outward, but this requires laying additional foundation for the new building structure. Bringing in digging equipment and masons can be costly. When you build vertically, such foundation work may not be necessary if your home is structurally sound and can bear the weight of the addition.

Building out typically involves the least disruption to your life and the existing space. Homeowners should keep in mind that any renovation will require permits or variances. In addition, if the project increases the value of the home, home insurance costs and property taxes may rise. Only after all considerations have been weighed should a project begin. Homeowners need to consider whether to build up or out when they add on to homes.



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#### How You Can Finance Your Home Improvement Projects

Many homeowners recognize that improving and maintaining a property makes a home more livable for its inhabitants and more attractive to prospective buyers when the time comes to erect a "For Sale" sign in the front yard.

But a well-maintained home also provides additional benefits. According to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, home improvements not only raise the values of individual homes,

but they tend to raise neighbor-hood standards as well. Home improvements can create jobs and help local communities flourish economically. Maintaining a home can be a costly undertaking. Home improvement projects can be

expensive whether homeowners hire professionals or tackle renovation projects on their own. The following are a handful of options homeowners can consider as they look for ways to finance renovation projects.

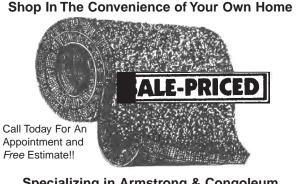
 Paving outright: Paving for the renovations upfront and in full is perhaps the simplest way to finance a project. Homeowners who have the cash to pay for renovations outright won't have to worry about interest rates or balloon payments.

· Mortgage refinancing: Some homeowners tap into their home equity to cover home projects. remodeling Refinancing a mortgage means paying off the debt owed and starting over with a completely

new loan. Refinancing comes with various fees and can cost between 3 and 6 percent of the loan's principal.

• Home equity loans and lines of credit: Both of these options are commonly referred to as second mortgages. When homeowners apply for home equity loans or lines of credit, they are borrowing against the equity value in their homes. A home equity loan is a term, or closed-end, loan. It is a onetime sum that will be paid off over a set amount of time with a fixed interest rate and the same payment each month. This is a one-time loan from which a person cannot borrow further. A home equity line of credit, or HELOC, is like having a credit card. It's possible to borrow a certain amount for the life of the loan, which is a set time specified by the lender. During this time, homeowners can withdraw money as it is needed up to the value of the line of credit. HELOCs typically have a variable interest rate that fluctuates and payments can vary depending on the amount of money borrowed and the current interest rates.

 Title I property loan: Residents of the United States with limited equity in their homes may qualify for an FHA Title I loan. Banks and other lenders are qualified to make these loans from their own funds, and the FHA will



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Because it is the homeowner's money, there will be no credit check required and less delay in getting the funds. Borrowers should keep in mind that taking a loan against a retirement account will usually result in a lower retirement balance than it would have been had they not borrowed money from the account — even after the funds have been repaid.

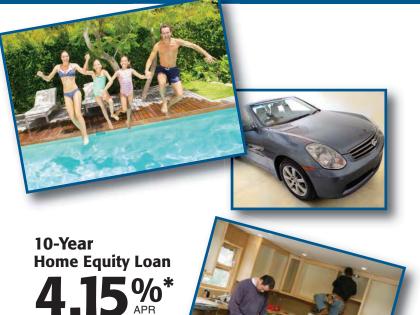
 Credit cards: Credit cards are an option when improvements are not expensive. Individuals with excellent credit ratings

may qualify for cards with a nointerest introductory periods of several months or more. These cåards can be a good way to pay off moderate improvements

in a short amount of time. Many home renovation projects require homeowners to develop a home improvement budget. Homeowners are urged to explore all options and find the least costly loan method and the one that will present the best possibility for avoiding debt.



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Living in an historic home can be a labor of love. The history and the distinct architecture of historic homes draw buyers to such properties.

Historic-home renovations differ from other types of modifica-tions. According to the Victorian Preservation Association, renovation is getting a home back to where it may have been when originally built, but making concessions for today's lifestyle. Preservation is the act of maintaining a structure in its current historic state, and restoration is returning a home to its original state. Unless a homeowner plans to use an outhouse or live without electricity, the majority of work done on historic properties is likely to fall into the category of a renovation.



Renovating an aging structure can be fulfilling and help to make a home more functional.

Many homeowners do not think twice about their roofs. But when leaks develop, roof repairs and the subsequent costs of such work shed light on how important it is for homeowners to pay closer attention to the roofs over their heads.

Though certain roof issues, like shingles lost to inclement weather, are unforeseeable, many problems can be avoided with routine roof inspection. Checking roof conditions twice a year can help homeowners avoid potentially costly repair work or even more expensive roof replacement projects.

Spring is a good time to inspect roofs, which are often at the mercy of harsh conditions throughout the winter. Heavy snow, ice and biting winds can do significant damage, making spring the perfect time to assess if any such damage occurred and address any issues.

Start the inspection in the interior of the home. Before breaking out the ladder and climbing up to the roof, inspect the home's interior, pinpointing potential problems that may indicate roof damage. Check

But make no mistake, such a renovation is a major undertaking. Before beginning, it pays to hire a professional consultant with expertise in renovating historic properties. He or she can inspect the property to determine which areas of the home are safe and which will need to be upgraded. A professional inspection also can determine if any deficiencies lie hidden in the structure. Potential con-cerns can be toxic paints and other substances, building code issues, rotting, and structural settling. Professionals will know what to look for and guide homeowners accordingly. Homeowners also may want to consult with a preservation association, community

restoration group or general owner-builder group. These people can refer homeowners to the craftspeople and materials that will be needed for a job. Homeowners can request to see other historic properties in the area and learn what those owners did to maintain the integrity of a home when using newer materials.

Before any work is started, homeowners should find out if their home is listed with the National Register of Historic Places. According to the United States National Parks Service, property owners can do whatever they want with their property so long as there are no federal monies attached to the property. However, the property owner should also contact his or her state's historic preservation office, or SHPO. The SHPO is the state agency that oversees historic preservation efforts in each state, and there may be state or local preservation laws that the owner should be aware of before renovating a historic property.

Craftspeople should have experience with historic homes and a sensitivity and appreciation of renovating older properties. Homeowners always should see examples of a craftsperson's work and verify references from each contractor before hiring anyone to work on the property.

Homeowners who want to include traditional hardware and other period details in their homes may be able to find quality replicas of historic milling materials, while others may want to scour antique shops or salvage yards for era-appropriate materials.

Historic renovations can be costly and have a tendency to go over budget because of unforseen damage and hazards that have to be repaired so the building is up to code. Going into the project with this in mind can help soften the blow of extra costs down the road.

Historic homes can be beautiful and appeal to buyers who appreciate the one-of-a-kind nature of older properties. Renovating historic homes may take time and money, but the results may be well worth the effort

#### How To Inspect For Roof Damage

for stains on the ceiling which may indicate leaks that need to be addressed. Homeowners with attics should enter their attics and look for signs of water damage, making note of any damp or wet insulation. This will let you know if water has been entering the attic all winter. Pay attention to the location of any wet spots or stains so you can match them up to the exterior of the roof later on. Musty smells also may be indicative of moisture problems, even if there are no visible leaks.

\* Inspect the roof outside. Grab a set of binoculars and inspect the exterior of the roof. Look at the roof flashing, including around the chimney and other areas of protruding pipes and vents. If the flashing is warped or damaged, moisture might be settling underneath. Sealant around dormers or skylights can also degrade, resulting in leaks. Check for spalling on masonry, such as the mortar of chimneys. Porous areas will allow water to infiltrate.

Go directly on the roof and check. Work with a partner and carefully climb on the roof while someone holds the ladder below. Walk on the perimeter of the roof, looking for peeling or warped shingles, missing shingles, holes, or scrapes. If the is compromised in any roof way, it will need to be repaired. The problem will only grow more significant and repairs more expensive if damage is ignored. Sometimes a repair can be as simple as patching a leak with a new shingle and roofing cement. Popped nails can be pounded down and any curled shingles can be nailed or cemented back into place.

Consult a roofing expert. If you are unsure if your roof has made it through the winter unscathed and would like a second opinion or if you find there is considerable damage, contact a roofing contractor. This person will offer a professional assessment of what can be repaired or if the roof should be replaced. If your roof is metal or features clay tiles, you may not have the expertise to make repairs yourself and will need to hire a professional.

Check the gutters, too. While you are up on the roof, inspect the gutters and downspouts as



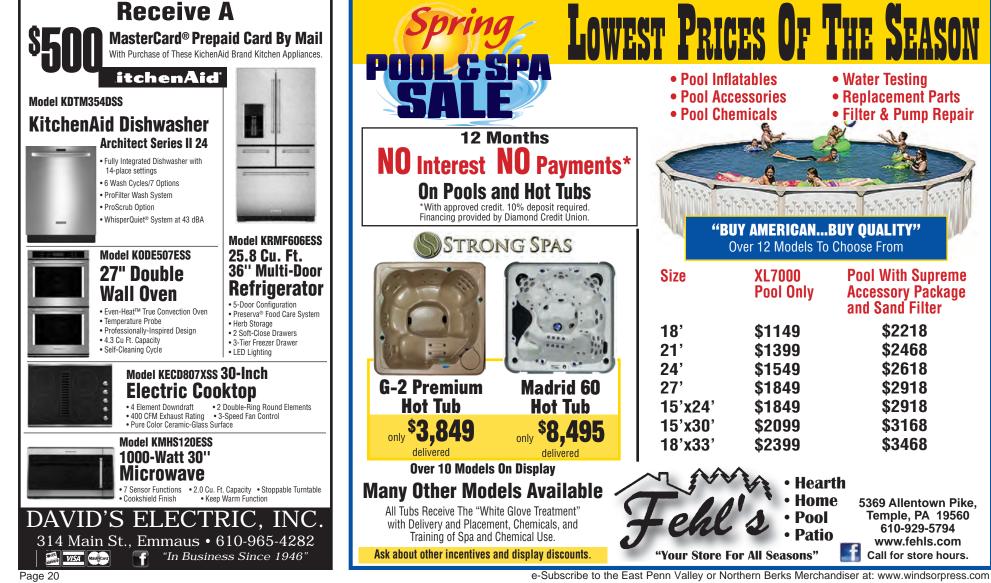
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well. Cracked or damage gutters will cause water to leak down the side of the home, potentially damaging the foun-dation. Clear any debris or leftover leaves from the gutters to ensure the rain can wash

through unobstructed. A post-winter roof inspection can protect homeowners and their families from the elements and reduce the likelihood of potentially costly repairs down the road.







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### Amendments Can Help Produce Healthy Soil

Mother Nature provides plenty to grow healthy lawns, gardens and landscapes. But as many homeowners know, some lawns sometimes need a little extra boost to complement nature. Soil sometimes must be amended so plants can thrive. Only after the right composition is created can plants take root and perform to the best of their abilities.

The Colorado State University Extension defines a soil amendment as any material added to soil to improve its physical properties. The goal is to provide a better environment for roots. Depending on what you are starting with, any number of ingredients must be added to the soil recipe. Water retention, permeability, drainage, aeration, nutrients, and water infiltration are some of the things amendments can improve when added to soil. Before homeowners add anything to the soil in their yards, it is first important to determine that soil what needs. Homeowners may notice if soil is overly sandy or full of clay, but further testing can confirm what the soil is lacking. Soil tests are often available through local cooperative extension offices or private laboratories. Speak with a nursery or garden center about where you can get your soil tested. A comprehensive test may cost between \$5 and \$10 and can provide invaluable information that saves you hundreds of dollars in wasted plants and materials, not to mention effort. Some labs also can tailor their

rials, not to mention effort. Some labs also can tailor their recommendations based on the type of planting you will be doing. For example, a vegetable garden may need different amendments than a row of azalea bushes. Organic matter is a preferred

soil amendment used by professional and novice gardeners alike. The decaying remains of plants release nutrients that are absorbed into the soil and used by microorganisms and bacteria, creating a healthy environment for plants. Organic mater-



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ial may break up compacted soil to increase drainage. In sandy soil, organic material serves as a sponge to keep water from washing away. Compost and manure are two examples of frequently used organic materials. Both of these materials are readily available at little cost.

Compost can be produced at home from food and plant scraps. Raked leaves and small amounts of grass clippings can be added to compost. Over time, the decomposition process will turn scraps into a nutrient-rich, dark brown substance that provides many plants with all they need to thrive. Compost is particularly useful in vegetable gardens. Manure should come from her-

bivores, or those animals that sustain themselves on grass and other plants. Carnivores can produce harmful bacteria in their waste, which is not safe to use in gardens, particularly food-bearing gardens. Manure can be commercially purchased, or avid gardeners can work out arrangements with nearby livestock owners and farms. These people may be more than willing to give you manure for little to no cost if you cart it away. Dried manure is preferred because it will have minimal odor.

Additional forms of organic amendments include wood ash, sphagnum peat, wood chips, sawdust, and worm droppings. Inorganic amendments also may be used, and are usually relied on to improve water retention and drainage. Vermiculite, perlite, pea gravel, and sand are examples of inorganic amendments. A combination of organic and inorganic amendments can create the perfect mix for your needs.

Soil amendments typically are added to new and unplanted beds. Peat moss and shredded bark take years to decompose and will serve as long-term amendments in the soil. Compost breaks down quickly and may need to be worked in more frequently.

Experts recommend spreading amendments on the planting bed and then using a rake or tiller to work it in to a depth of about nine inches. Particularly sandy soil or soil with a lot of clay may need more amendments.

Permanent plants, such as trees or shrubs, also can benefit from the extra nutrient boost amendments provide. Sometimes it is sufficient to spread the material over the soil surface and let rainwater and wildlife help distribute it to the plant roots. Otherwise, work it into the top inch or two of the dirt with a hand cultivator.

Soil amendments can be the difference between a thriving garden and healthy landscape and one that has seen better days.





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#### Help Your Home's Exterior Rebound From Harsh Winter Weather

The seasons can be harsh on homes, and perhaps no season is more taxing on a home's exterior than winter. Harsh winter weather can take a toll on roofs, gutters, landscaping, and just about any other part of the home that must face the cold head-on. The following are a few areas of your home that might need some help rebounding from winter now that spring has finally arrived.

Gutters: Gutters are vulnerable to winter weather, as strong winds may blow debris into the gutters or even blow the gutters off of the house. Gutters should be cleaned prior to and immediately after winter to ensure they're working properly and not backing up to the point that water can build up and damage the roof. Reattach any loose gutters and clear them of any debris left behind by winter winds.

• Roof: The roof is another area of your home's exterior that may have been beaten down over the winter. Examine the roof for cracked, missing or deformed shingles that can allow water to enter a home and damage its interior. Some roof damage is visible from the ground, but homeowners who just endured especially harsh winters may want to climb up on their roofs or hire a professional to get a clos-er look. Another way to determine if the roof was damaged is to go into your attic and check for water damage near roof trusses. Water damage indicates something went awry over the winter.

Walkways and driveways: Heavy snowfall or significant accumulation of ice over the winter can result in cracked or damaged walkways, driveways and porches. Some of this damage may have resulted from aggressive shoveling or breaking up of ice. Look for any cracks in areas that needed shoveling over the winter, as such cracks can be safety hazards and may even prove to be entry points into your home for water or critters.

 Landscaping: Landscaping also tends to take a hit in areas that experience harsh winters. Winter storms may damage trees, which can put a home right in the line of falling limbs or worse. Walk around your property to inspect for tree damage, removing any

your lawn.

your property after a long winter, inspect appliances like a central air conditioning unit or even dryer vents to make sure they made it through the winter unscathed. Such appliances may have proven an attractive nesting spot for animals over the winter, but damage can be significant if vermin or other animals seek shelter from winter weather inside appliances

Feng shui is the practice of arranging a home or office environment so energy flows gently and smoothly throughout the building. Many homeowners adhere to elements of feng shui, the origins of which date back several thousand years, in an attempt to create a positive environment that is free of stress. The basis for feng shui is that everything in a given environment has an energy known as "chi." Proponents of feng shui believe chi not only flows through the body but also through the environment. When a home environment negatively affects this flow, believers in feng shui feel this can lead to health problems, financial troubles or domestic strife. This is why feng shui adherents do not allow clutter to accumulate in their homes, as they feel clutter can stagnate energy flow. In addition, feng shui adherents avoid homes with long, dark hallways or poorly lit staircases, as they feel such areas negatively affect the flow of energy in a home.

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Home Improvement Glossary

Understanding the terminology any roof intersection or projecused in the home improvement tion. and construction industries can help homeowners be better informed and involved in projects around their homes. The following are some common industry terms. Aggregate: Crushed rock used in many asphalt applications. Ampacity: The amount of current a wire can safely carry. Asbestos: A fibrous material that was once used widely in building materials but is linked to cancers of the lung and lung cavity. Backfill: Soil or gravel used to fill in against a foundation. Beam: Horizontal framing

member designed to carry a load from joists or a roof. Butt joint: Lumber pieces joined at the ends. Casement window: A window

with hinges on one of the vertical sides making it swing open like a door

Caulking: Flexible material used to seal a gap between two surfaces.

Code: Rules set forth by a government institution to determine fair and safe trade practices. Curing: A process that brings paint or masonry materials to their final, durable form.

Drywall: A wall finish made from gypsum plaster encased in a thin cardboard.

Estimate: The anticipated cost of materials and labor for a project.

Fixed price contract: A contract with a set price for the work. Flashing: Sheet metal or roll roofing pieces fit to the joint of

### AS YOUR LIFE CHANGES, **BE SURE YOUR INSURANCE KEEPS UP.**

### How To Close Up A Fireplace For The Season

A roaring fireplace on a chilly day provides a welcome, aesthetically appealing respite from the cold

Fireplaces are typically used throughout winter, but when

to clear out any remaining ashes from crevices and other parts of the firebox. HIRE A CHIMNEY SWEEP

A fully functioning fireplace

CLOSE THE DAMPER Homeowners should close the dampers on wood-burning fireplaces when closing their fireplaces for the season. Doing so prevents animals from making

fallen limbs or cutting down any limbs that appear dead or that might eventually prove a safety hazard. In addition, check the grass for any dead spots that might have fallen victim to winter freeze, and address those spots when the time comes to revitalize

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(MS) — After a winter of hibernation, spring is the perfect time to consider remodeling projects

that will help keep your house

cool in the coming summer

months and reduce energy con-

An unfinished basement is a source of energy loss in many homes. By simply finishing the

space with wall and floor coverings, you will notice a difference on your energy bills. A remodeled basement offers more than

additional storage and living space. It can provide room for a growing family or a space where you can retreat for some

Insulation is a key component in making your basement look and feel comfortable, inviting and dry. For the best results,

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Did You Know...

Footing: Widened ground base of a foundation to support foundations or piers. Framing: The structural wooden elements of most homes. GFI: A ground fault current

interrupter, which is an electrical device used to prevent injury from contact with electrical appliances.

Jamb: The exposed upright part on each side of a window frame or door frame.

Level: A tool to check for level or plumb surfaces. Permit: A legal authorization to

begin a work project. Pitch: The slope of incline on a roof.

Rebar: Steel rods that are imbedded in concrete for stabil-

Shim: A tapered piece of wood used to level and secure a structure.

Stud: Vertical parts of framing placed 16 or 24 inches apart. Watt: A measure of the electri-

cal requirement of an appliance.

#### Did you know?

A flat roof is more prone to leakage than other roofs, so homeowners may need to routinely inspect their flat roofs for any areas of water penetration. Another way to prevent leaks is to install gutter systems correctly. Gutters should not be hung completely level, but angled toward the roof's downspouts and drains. This angle will better facilitate water flow

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spring rolls around. many homeowners no longer feel the need to light a fire. As fireplace season winds down, homeowners can take the following steps to close their fireplaces for the warm weather seasons ahead.

#### **BEGIN THE CLEANUP**

Repeatedly lighting fires results in an accumulation of ash and residual wood debris. Clean out what you can by hand and dis-card the soot. To conduct a more thorough cleaning, use a high-powered garage vacuum



chimney should be swept annually by a certified chimney sweep. He or she will remove soot and any creosote from the inside of the chimney. Creosote is highly flammable and can cause considerable damage if it catches fire.

A professional chimney sweeping also reduces the amount of dirt and odor that will continue to enter a home after the fireplace has been retired for the season. Damp spring weather can moisten soot trapped in a chimney, causing it to smell. Cleaning and deodorizing can help keep rooms fresh.

ASK FOR AN INSPECTION Ask a chimney sweep to inspect your chimney in addition to cleaning it. A sweep can look for leaks and cracks, and he or she should also look at the flashing system and rain cap, which can prevent water infiltration. You don't want to learn your chimney is in poor shape during a heavy spring rainfall. Ask that the pipes, brickwork and damper also be checked for functionality and good repair.

nests inside the chimney and possibly gaining entry into your home. Closing the damper also makes the home more efficient by not letting air escape through the chimney.

Those with gas fireplaces should leave the damper open at all times to prevent a gas buildup in the home in the case of a gas leak. However, homeowners may want to extinguish the pilot light for a gas fireplace in the spring to reduce energy usage.

#### MAKE IT ATTRACTIVE

Some homeowners choose to dress up a fireplace to make it look more appealing in the offseason. Flowers, plants, candles, or decorative accents can be placed in the firebox to add style to a home.

When closing a fireplace for the season, homeowners can benefit from hiring a professional to ensure everything is done correctly and the fireplace will be in top shape and ready to warm everyone up next winter.

Spring is a great time to prepare fireplaces for seasonal closing.





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