

HOME & GARDEN

MARCH 2021

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 1981

LANDMARK ROOFING Page 10

Whether they are doing a residential job, providing a free service to a Severna Park nonprofit or helping homeowners identify damage that is covered by insurance, the team at Landmark Roofing makes customer service their top priority.



GARDEN HEALTH **Page 2**

Early spring is a good time to take a close look at your lawn and landscape.

REMODELING **Page 5**

Be creative, add some color and make desired changes in your home.

OUTDOOR SPACES **Page 15**

Creating your outdoor oasis does not have to be complicated or expensive.

How Is Climate Change Affecting Your Garden?

Elizabeth Elliott
Himmel's Landscape
and Garden Center



Have you noticed soggy spots in your yard that weren't there before? Are there brown spots in your lawn, holes in the leaves of your laurels, or yellow patches in your pachysandra? Mild winters and an increase in normal precipitation levels contribute to a number of insect, fungal, and other issues that negatively impact your plants and yard. Even well-established beds and mature trees and shrubs can suddenly and quickly succumb to disease if not managed.

Whether you operate on your own or enlist the help of a professional, early spring is a good time to take a close look at your lawn and landscape and act before minor issues become major problems.

Anthracnose on dogwood trees

Anthracnose is a general term used to describe a number of different fungal diseases that typically attack plants in spring when weather is cool and wet. Although this disease can affect many deciduous and evergreen trees and shrubs, it can severely damage our well-loved native dogwood tree if left untreated. Infected dogwoods usually have brown spots on the lower leaves and flower bracts. Ultimately, the infection spreads from leaves to twigs, causing cankers. In worst cases, infection leads to root rot diseases that can kill the tree. Healthy trees are able to withstand fungal diseases! Keep dogwoods mulched, fertilized and watered, especially during dry spells. Prune and discard limbs

that appear to be infected and use a fungicide to prevent the spread of disease. Make sure to sterilize tools used for pruning to avoid cross contamination.

Lace bugs on azaleas

We love good old-fashioned azaleas for bright spring color and evergreen interest. However, if the foliage of those once healthy and lush shrubs suddenly starts to fade and appear unattractive, it's most likely a victim of lace bug infestation! Unfortunately, warm, wet winters followed by periods of summer drought increase the likelihood that this pest will find its way to your yard. Lace bug nymphs and adults have piercing-sucking mouth parts and remove sap as they feed from the underside of the leaf. Eventually the feeding frenzy weakens the entire plant, making it more susceptible to other insect and fungal diseases and potentially leads to death. A great preventative measure is to treat azaleas and rhododendrons with a horticultural oil or insecticidal soap in early spring before new growth appears. Make sure to spray the back of the leaves, where lace bug eggs are generally found.

Shot-hole disease on laurels

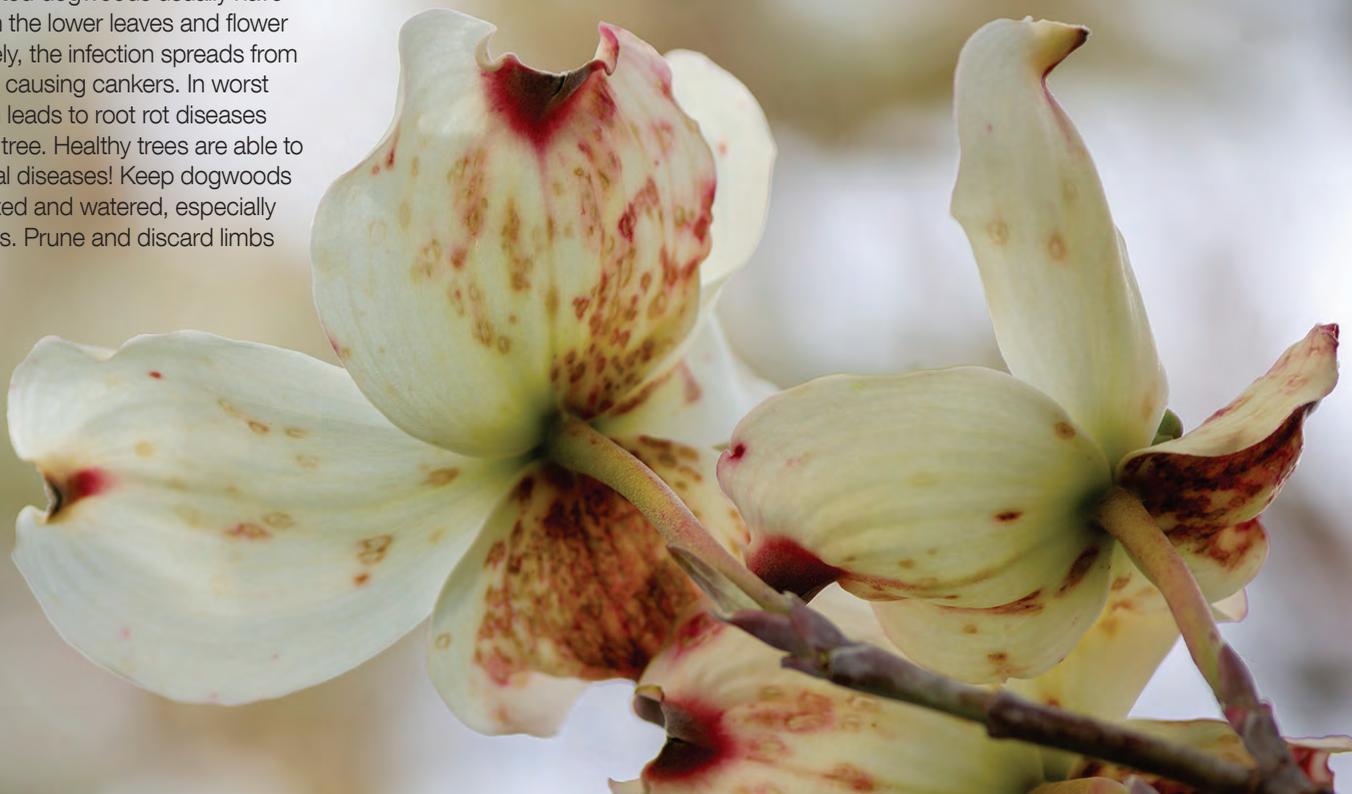
Shot-hole disease is a common bacterial disease that affects cherry laurels and other plants in the genus *Prunus*. If you have no-

ted small holes in the leaves of your cherry laurels, chances are your plant is infected! Generally, shot-hole disease is like acne in teenagers, unsightly but not life-threatening. However, like most infestations, this disease can weaken the plant and increase the likelihood of another fungal or insect invasion. Never water laurels overhead as poor watering practices increase the chances of bacterial development. If your shrubs are infected, cleanliness and copper soap are the solution. Rake up and discard leaves beneath the plants so the spores won't splash up and exacerbate the infection. Treat with a copper fungicide and take measures to increase airflow around the plants.

Other issues

Keep an eye on ivy and pachysandra beds as we have seen an increase in fungal diseases. Hollies and crepe myrtles are more infected with scale and resulting sooty mold than ever before! Brown spots or yellow patches in lawn mean that fungal disease is on the rise. And don't forget – it's the year of the locust. Cover young trees with mesh to prevent egg-laying and resulting damage on tender new shoots.

Contact the professionals at Himmel's Landscape and Garden Center to discuss your lawn and landscape concerns! ■





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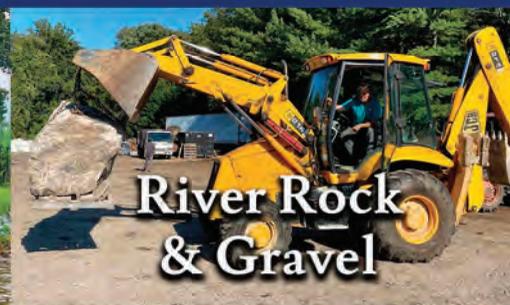
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Making The Most Of Your Home

Steve Wheatley
50 East Remodeling



As we all approach our second springtime and summer months during the new normal, we are all finding new ways to make the most of the existing space in our homes. Over the last year, homeowners and home remodelers both have been extremely busy with finding creative ways to make it more comfortable while we work from home, learn and teach at home, and entertain in our homes. I'd like to share some

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Buying A Home With Well Water

Brian Edwards
Hague Quality Water
of Maryland



If you are buying a home with well water, understanding your home's water quality is critical. In fact, many real estate transactions require a water test as part of the purchasing



process. Whether you are considering a move or have already purchased a home with well water, contacting a water treatment provider is a great first step. A water treatment company can test your water for pH, iron and other contaminants and review the water treatment systems in your new home.

If you have well water and no water treatment system is installed, you'll want to invest in a system to treat your water. Water treatment systems are available at varying

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Three Steps To Get Your Deck Spring-Ready



Nicole Bailey
Fence & Deck Connection



The snowstorms are behind us and the sun is shining a little brighter, which means spring is just around the corner! As we say an enthusiastic goodbye to winter, we can't help but daydream about long afternoons spent outdoors under the sun with good food and drinks. Before you host your first barbecue, however, you'll want to make sure your deck is in tip-top shape and prepared for use. Below, you'll find a few steps you should take to beautify your

outdoor space now, so you can kick back and relax this spring and summer.

Step 1: Conduct An Inspection

Winter weather can cause some unexpected damage to decks, especially if they are made of wood. Spend a few minutes walking the entire deck,

looking for any loose boards or railings. Be sure to also check under the deck for any mildew, rot or loose nails. If you find any corroding fasteners, damaged posts, or boards that are loose or warped, it's definitely smart to get those repaired as soon as possible. If it appears your deck needs quite a bit more work than just a few simple repairs, it might

be time for an upgrade: make the switch from wood to composite, expand an existing structure, or build an entirely new deck! With quicker installation times, winter and early spring months are ideal for homeowners wanting to maximize outdoor enjoyment in the summer.

Step 2: Bust Out The Cleaning Supplies

Once you know your deck is safe to use, it's time for a little outdoor spring cleaning. A pressure washer can clean dirt and grime away quickly and efficiently, but you'll want to make sure to use a

Continued on page 12



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Water-Powered Backup Sump Pumps

John Taylor
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was gained from Anne Arundel County plumbing inspectors, the latest in backup sump pumps is now available. This pump does not require a battery that must be maintained and can only last for a limited amount of time when your electricity is out. Instead, it operates by using water power supplied through your public water supply, which flows virtually without interruption even when power is out.

The Basepump water-powered backup sump pump is the finest pump of this type on the market. Compared to similar products, the Basepump is capable of pumping twice the volume of water while using the same amount of fresh water (two gallons pumped per one gallon used). Additionally,

the Basepump has a built-in atmospheric vacuum breaker (AVB). It does not require an expensive reduced pressure zone backflow preventer (RPZ), which is required by code on the installation of other pumps and also requires annual testing by a licensed plumber – an unforeseen expense.

During installation, a float is mounted in the sump pit above the normal high-water mark. Under typical conditions, your main electric-powered sump pump will handle all the pumping duties. When water rises higher than normal for any reason, the Basepump float in the sump is lifted and hydraulically activates the Basepump ejector in the ceiling through a pressur-

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Publishers

Dianna Lancione
Lonnie Lancione

V.P., Operations

Brian Lancione

V.P., Business Development

Jonathan Katz

Sales Account Executives

Petra Roche
Larry Sells

Editor

Zach Sparks

Editorial Assistant

Haley Weisgerber

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spvnews@severnaparkvoice.com

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Landmark Roofing Skillfully Pivots To

By Zach Sparks

As a provider of roofs, doors, windows, siding and gutters, the Landmark Roofing team has to be just as reliable as the materials they provide. Whether its meeting individual homeowner needs or finding a way to solve a community problem, Landmark Roofing is able to quickly adapt and do their best work.

A bike ramp needed repair along the B&A Trail? No problem. A baby pool in North Severna Park had to be fixed? Of course, Landmark can help. Each community project and each job are equally important.

"It's not just about the finish line," said Artie Hendricks, Landmark's president of operations. "It's about the path to get there."

"The path" is not about finishing a job but doing it right and making life easier for customers. For example, when Anne Arundel County is hit by heavy storms, Landmark Roofing helps homeowners identify possible damage and determine if that damage is covered by insurance.

"Homeowners pay a lot for insurance for a reason," said Rob Calhan, Landmark Roofing's president of sales. "We've seen, over the years, a lot of storm damage in this area, and homeowners might not know if they can get the damage fixed at no cost, so we help navigate them through it all."

Free estimates are a vital service because a home may have damage without the owner knowing it. Creased shingles and hail damage are typically not visible from the ground, but they pose a potential leak risk and shorten the roof's life expectancy, explained Lukas Esop, Landmark Roofing's sales/insurance supervisor.

"Most insurance policies pay to install upgraded materials required by code even if you don't have those materials now — roofing drip edge, roofing ice and water barrier, and siding house-wrap air/moisture barrier," he said.

Many insurance companies are now adjusting claims virtually, so it is essential to have a reputable contractor to document and present all property damage to the insurance company properly.

"The insurance claims process can be frustrating to deal with," Esop said. "Landmark brought me onboard as an ex-adjuster on staff to guide people through the process to eliminate the frustration."

Landmark offers more than roofing. The company installs windows, doors and gutters, and carries James Hardie siding and vinyl siding. Homeowners may need new siding if theirs is warped, damaged or if there is noticeable color fading. Landmark is happy to answer any questions from potential customers.

"Landmark has focused their efforts as an organization around customer experience," said Chris Riggi, the Maryland market development manager for James Hardie Building Products. "Their goal is to create customers for life by providing superior products, communication and quality craftsmanship. This experience is captured by industry-leading high scores on all of Landmark Roofing's review platforms."



Meet Customer, Community Needs



Landmark Roofing co-owners Rob Calhan (left) and Artie Hendricks (right) received the 2020 Harmony Award from Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce CEO Liz League. The award is presented annually to a business that strives for excellence in its practices and supports the community.

To keep up with the latest industry trends and carry the best products, Landmark Roofing has invested in continuing education with James Hardie.

"In a new digitalized world, change in the construction industry is required to service tech savvy homeowners," Riggi said. "Staying up to date with the latest product updates, installation requirements, law changes, technological advances, etc. is critical to providing top-level customer experiences. Landmark's training process across their organization drives compliance and continuous improvement at all levels. Consistent training on James Hardie products allows siding professionals to be confident that all employees are educating homeowners on the most up-to-date information and following the accurate installation practices to achieve a great customer experience."

Landmark Roofing's customer experience goes beyond its business.

"In addition to their customer reputation, Landmark is passionate about giving back to the local community," Riggi said. "For this, James Hardie couldn't be more proud to partner with Landmark Roofing."

Landmark Roofing's community service is unwavering. The company raised more than \$2,600 during a Polar Bear Plunge event at Garry's Grill in January 2021,

donated \$1,500 to Boys Hope Girls Hope and \$1,000 to the BWMC Foundation in fall 2020, made personal donations to Fight Colorectal Cancer (Fight CRC) and Fight Net Cancer With Katherine the last few years, and is in discussions with a Severna Park nonprofit to provide a much-needed enhancement at no cost to the nonprofit, just to name a few of Landmark's community contributions.

The team also gives a free roof to a family in need each year. For the 2021 giveaway, Landmark is going beyond its usual donation and again pivoting to meet a community need. When the team learned that the winner of this year's annual roof giveaway had just received a new roof, after the nomination process was complete but before the winner was announced, Landmark Roofing decided not only to provide new windows and doors to the homeowner, but Landmark also choose an additional nominee deserving of a new roof.

That generosity has been demonstrated by Landmark Roofing time and time again, and it's why the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce chose Landmark as this year's Harmony Award winner, in recognition of giving back to the community.

"They are very well-steeped in the

community and very philanthropic," said Liz League, president of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce. "They're one of the few businesses that has been successful despite COVID, and they're giving back."

Landmark Roofing has built countless connections in the community through the company but also through other ventures. Hendricks sits on the board of the Severna Park Community Center, and the business recently struck a compromise that allows them to help Realtors with their needs.

"It's more than roofing; it's the relationships that come from being in the community, whether it's Realtors or people we've met through our work with the Severna Park Community Center," Hendricks said. "It's a team approach for everyone at Landmark. Without the people in the organization believing in that relationship in the community, you don't have a viable business."

For more information about Landmark Roofing, call 443-223-7453, email info@roofingbylandmark.com or visit www.roofingbylandmark.com.

Backup Sump Pumps

Continued from page 8

ized plastic tube. As municipal water rushes through the ejector, it creates a powerful suction force that causes the PVC pipe to act like a giant straw, drawing water up from the sump pit and ejecting it outdoors. As the water level falls, the float drops back down, and a pre-set timing control keeps the ejector running for about 30 to 45 seconds before shutting off the system. This allows a full pump-down of the sump, unlike some other pumps.

There are no impellers, turbines, motors or mechanical parts to wear out. There are no batteries, wires or chargers to monitor, tend to or replace. Ever! The operation is fully automatic. We simply recommend you test it quarterly or before a major

weather event to ensure it doesn't need any adjustments. It works whether you're home or away, for as long as it is needed. Basement pump can supplement the primary pump when water flow is excessive. It installs and performs independently from the primary sump pump system. It is reliable, heavy duty, and durable. There is no better pump!

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John Taylor has been the COO of Alpha Plumbing since 2003. ■

Three Steps To Get Your Deck Spring-Ready

Continued from page 7

milder setting, as a high-pressure setting could damage the fibers of the wood. If you don't have access to a pressure washer, any areas where dirt and debris have gathered can be sprayed with a garden hose. For composite decks in particular, use warm soapy water and a soft bristle brush to remove dirt and debris from the embossing pattern.

Step 3: Give It A Spring Coat

You may have tucked your parka in the back of the closet until next winter, but you're still going to need a coat — a fresh coat of paint! If any parts of a wood deck seem faded or worn, repainting or restaining can certainly make the deck more visually pleasing. It also seals the wood, protecting it from moisture, staining and in-

sects. Use long, smooth strokes with a roller or synthetic brush to apply solid stains in thin coats and semi-transparent stains or clear sealers in even thinner coats. Whatever type of stain you use, apply two coats to ensure there are no missed spots and to get a more uniform finish.

If you need help creating an outdoor space that will last year-round, contact local, trusted professionals. For nearly 30 years, Fence & Deck Connection has designed and installed high-quality fences and decks for families in Anne Arundel County and beyond. Contact Fence & Deck Connection at 410-757-5511 or stop by the outdoor showroom at 8057 Veterans Highway in Millersville to learn more about the many fence and deck options customizable to your needs. ■



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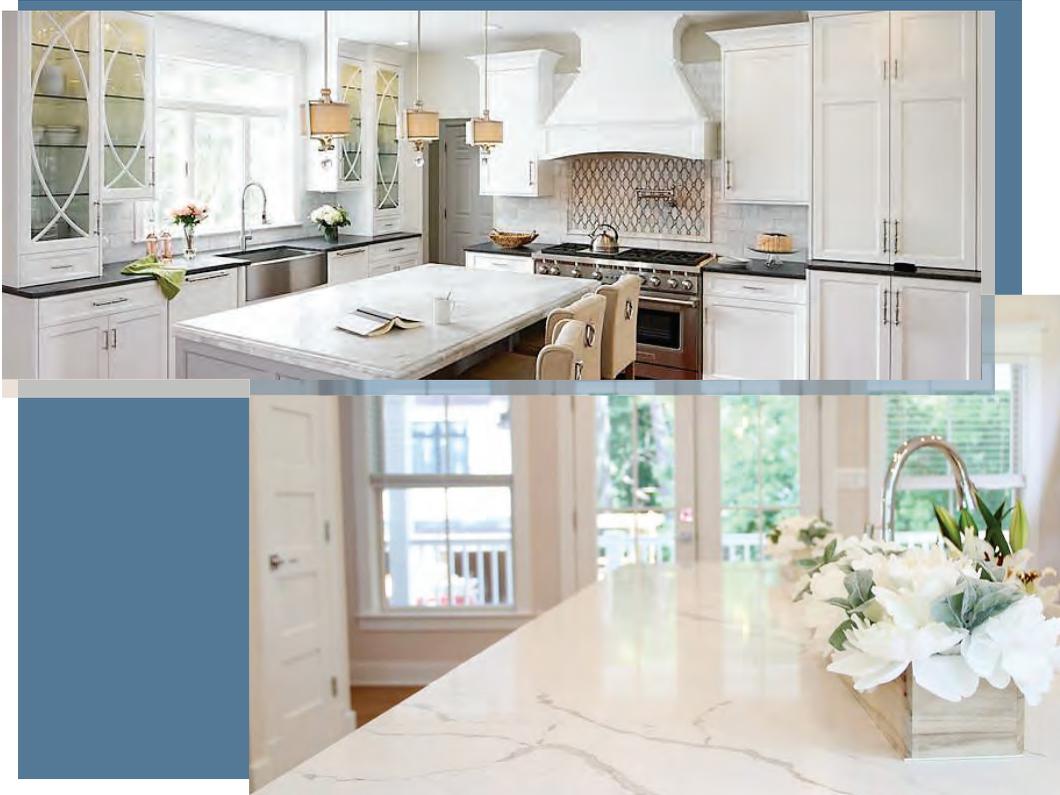


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Spring Kitchen Refresh



Kristy Wallace

Designer
Severna Park Kitchen and Bath



Spring is coming! The days are longer, the sun is shining, and you're finally seeing the dust that was hiding in the winter light. A spring refresh in your home starts in the kitchen with simple steps that can make a big impact. Whether you're considering a kitchen update, or just want to do a deep clean, a healthy kitchen begins with these thoughtful tips from our pros.

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Before



After

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Spring Kitchen Refresh

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Deep Clean Or Replace Your Cabinetry

Keep in mind that kitchens are one of the most heavily trafficked rooms in the home. Grease and food particles can find their way into the nooks and crannies of your cabinetry, so it is important to give your kitchen cabinetry a good cleaning once a month. After confirming with the manufacturer's recommendation, you should be able to use warm soapy water on a lint-free cloth to wipe down your cabinetry. Over time, you may need to replace your cabinetry

as even the most durable materials can age with exposure to those kitchen "elements."

Countertop Options

An easy way to update your kitchen is to replace existing countertops. Quartz's beauty is matched in its durability and performance; few countertop options are as strong and maintenance-free as quartz. Made with mostly natural quartz and resin, pressed and baked at high temperatures, quartz is almost completely nonporous, making it a dream to clean. Plus, it is widely available in brighter whites, making it an obvious

choice for homeowners who are looking for a clean look.

Ventilation

An often overlooked yet highly important feature of any kitchen is ventilation. People spend about 90 percent of their time indoors, so ventilation is key to a healthy home. Carbon monoxide from your gas range and formaldehyde from cooking oil contribute to an unhealthy environment inside your home. Simply put, turn on your vent hood whenever you cook. Replace charcoal filters in ductless or self-circulating fans and microwave vents. If your

budget allows, consider replacing the ductless hood with one that vents to the outside. These are becoming much more popular and are a more effective way to keep toxins and smells out of the home. They are a beautiful addition to a kitchen, and usually have dishwasher-safe filters that are easy to disinfect.

If you're looking for guidance on your spring kitchen refresh, these professional designers are here to help! From inspiration to installation, Severna Park Kitchen and Bath is your local place to dream, design and deliver. ■



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How To Create A Simple DIY Outdoor Oasis

By Tegan Harris
Hardscape Specialist
 The Stone Store

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 was a shock to the system for everyone. With the shutdowns and social distancing, many

vacations, gatherings and parties have been put on the backburner or canceled, causing cabin fever to hit homes a little harder than usual. For these reasons, having a dedicated outdoor

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Mary Hunt
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The only difference between gardeners and cheapskate gardeners is the amount of money they spend to achieve the same results. The truth is, like no other hobby, gardening is more productive when the cheapest — even free — supplies are used.

CONTROL WEEDS

Homemade weedkiller. Dissolve two cups of salt in one gallon of white vinegar, and add one tablespoon of liquid dish soap. Move some of the vinegar to another container so you have room to get all that salt in there. Then replace the amount you removed and



add the soap. Apply with a spray bottle. Caution: Repeated use will sterilize the soil to where eventually nothing will grow.

KEEP CATS AWAY

Ammonia. Sink small open containers (baby food jars are good) into the soil up to the rim throughout the garden, and fill with household ammonia. Cats hate the smell of ammonia.

Pepper. Sprinkle the garden with ground black pepper. Purchase it in bulk at a warehouse club or bulk grocer, and apply liberally to the affected area. It won't harm the cats but simply irritate their paws.

Plant flowers. Marigolds have a pungent odor that repels cats and other bugs and animals. Plant them among your vegetable and flower gardens.

PROMOTE NEW GROWTH

To guarantee the healthiest plants in town, when planting trees, shrubs and evergreens, scatter 10 unused match heads and one cup of Epsom salts in the planting hole. This promotes new growth and helps strengthen stems and roots.

Cheap fertilizer. Add two teaspoons of plain household ammonia to one gallon of water. Allow it to sit in an open container (and out of reach of kids looking for a drink) for 24 hours. Use on plants instead of commercial fertilizer.

BUILD SOIL

Fireplace ashes. Spread wood ash from your winter fires onto the garden beds. Also known as potash, it will gradually build the soil, adding potassium as well as 32 trace minerals. And it's free! ■

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Buying A Home With Well Water

Continued from page 6

prices and will save you money over time. These systems are perfect for water softening, but they also work to remove harmful contaminants. The results of a water test and your water usage habits will determine the best system to treat your well water. Look for an option that softens hard well water and removes many common contaminants like iron, other heavy metals and microorganisms.

Maintaining Your Well

Once you are settled, the water treatment system and your well require regular maintenance. Follow these top five tips for maintaining a home with well water:

1. Test your well water annually

2. Get your well water system inspected each year
3. Evaluate your water softener's operations
4. Prevent water stains
5. Keep your well water tasting and smelling fresh

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Making The Most Of Your Home

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of the ideas we have seen recently, on the job, and make sure you are getting the most out of your home and hopefully inspire you to have a little fun.

How is your kitchen and bathroom doing? Since we tend to be home more often, our kitchens and bathrooms are getting much more use. Completely renovating right now might not be in the budget. Adding a breakfast nook or cutting a pass-through opening into a wall can create a nice feel to your home and make your kitchen feel larger. A little bit of caulk around the tub and a fresh coat of paint can do wonders in a bathroom. Installing new bathroom hardware fixtures and a vanity with drawers can give a complete facelift. Adding a wall cabinet over the toilet or even having a linen closet built might give everyone in the home a place for their personal belongings.

Dedicating an office and school space. We are seeing this everywhere.

The size may depend on your family needs. There should be a space in the house for everyone to easily access all of the office essentials. Maybe you have a rarely used spare bedroom or a corner of the basement. We have even seen garages being finished and converted to indoor workspaces. A desk or even a roundtable can give everyone a little room to work and learn. Put a dry-erase board on the wall. Being able to close the door from distractions, such as pets and family members, is a huge plus.

Take it outside! It's not a secret that a lot of neighbors have been completing new projects. Last summer, there was a months-long shortage on pressure-treated wood nationwide. Now that the supply of wood has been replenished, more people are adding new and usable space by having decks built, and in some cases, with a covered roof. This additional square footage can be used not only for entertaining but can also double as a private area when the house is feeling

a bit crowded. A covered front porch will make it easier while going in and out of the house in the wet weather, but it can also be a place for you to step out and relax. A couple chairs and you have a place to read a book or watch the neighborhood action. A new front porch is not going to hurt your property value either.

Do you have a green thumb?

Creating a raised garden bed is a simple and inexpensive way to spruce up the yard. This can also be a fun learning and entertaining experience not just for kids but adults also. Maybe you can grow some of your own food in the process.

As we all make adjustments over the next few months, the one thing that we can all count on is that our homes become our sanctuary. I encourage you to be creative, add some color and make the desired changes in your home. If your project is beyond your means, you can always hire a professional. ■

How To Create A Simple DIY Outdoor Oasis

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space is a great way to decompress and offer an escape from the long days that so many people are going through. There are many steps to creating your outdoor oasis though they do not have to be complicated or expensive.

Gravel Patio

For a simple DIY patio, gravel is an excellent, inexpensive way to create a relaxation space. You would first start by planning out how big the area will be and dig out the existing soil. The next steps would be to lay your fabric and choose how you would want to border the area. With the border, you have several

options. An example of an easy one is utilizing small boulders between 3 and 5 inches that are relatively easy to install and will give you a unique look. Lastly, you would install your gravel over the fabric. We typically recommend gravel or stone that is between three-eighths of an inch and 1 inch. Any between these sizes will make the patio easier and safer to walk on.

Exterior Lighting Options

After your patio has come together, it is essential to make your space available, be it night or day. Lighting can elevate your oasis and add a special touch to

your home, whether it is as simple as string lights or a few bullet lights strategically placed on focal trees or plants. A fire pit is another great lighting option you can build. Nicolock's Serafina fire pit is a user-friendly DIY fire pit. The fire pit comes in different colors and would add an exciting splash of color for your backyard project.

Final Enhancements

For the final touches, boulders and plants are great accessories for any space. These items can take a flat-looking space and give it definition. Enhancing your project by placing decorative and contrasting pebbles or gravel is another

alternative and makes a small outdoor living area appear larger to the eye.

Keep in mind when building your outdoor oasis that it brings you light during these difficult times. Then, when finished, relax and find peace while staying safe and healthy in your own home.

The Stone Store is one of the area's leading suppliers of outdoor living elements. Products and materials featured in this article can be found at The Stone Store, located at 7535 Railroad Avenue in Hanover, Maryland. For additional information, please visit www.thestonestore.com or call 1-888-766-4242. ■

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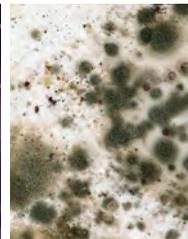
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