

PITTSBURGH

Spring 2011
Complimentary

Designing **HOME** *Lifestyles*

SHOW ME THE MONEY PART III • STRAWBERRIES

ECO LIFESTYLES: ECONUNDRUMS • THE STRIP



THE VOICE OF COLOR

PPG PITTSBURGH PAINTS

Dee Schlotter
and the Staff of
PPG Pittsburgh® Paints
are Taking the
Country by Storm

Cover Story on Pages 12-15



AT HOME WITH: PITTSBURGH PASSION

Eisler Landscapes

*For the Quality you are
accustomed to,
call us today!*



800-420-8733

1031 New Castle Road, Box 465, Prospect, PA 16052
www.eislerlandscapes.com Fax: (724) 865-9018

Design

Landscape Plantings

Water Features

Outdoor Fireplaces

Swimming Pools

Patios and Walls

Cedar Arbors

Outdoor Kitchens

Tennis Courts

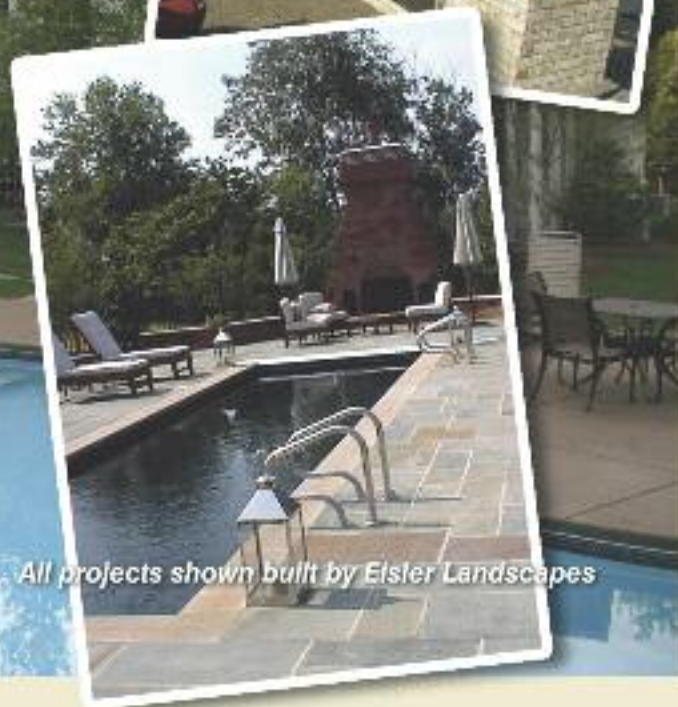
Lakes and Ponds

Nature Trails

Large Specimen Trees

Rustic Cut Stone

PA Contractor Registration: PA00AGN1C001400 All projects shown built by Eisler Landscapes



The pool of a lifetime... The pool for a lifetime.

aqua pool, inc.

INTEGRITY • TRUST
TEAMWORK
ACCOUNTABILITY
CUSTOMER SATISFACTION



Aqua Pool, Inc. is a swimming pool company rich in history that takes great pride in maintaining a reputation for quality, innovation, service and design.

By offering expert design solutions and innovative construction techniques, we are able to provide our customers with the highest quality custom built gunite pools and spas available anywhere.

Each project is custom designed for your specific application; indoor; outdoor; residential; commercial; therapy or competition.

The applications may change, but our commitment to building a state of the art, quality product while adhering to time-proven standards will not.

*Design Innovation, Performance and
above all else, QUALITY.*

aqua pool, inc.

www.aquapoolinc.com

Call (412) 824-6900



Luxury Bath



Ask about our exclusive lux-bond installation system



BEFORE



AFTER

DON'T BE FOOLED

by other bath fitting solutions!
8 out of 10 people who
compare choose luxury bath!

NO MORE MOLD & MILDEW

with our exclusive luxsan®
high molecular acrylic,
featuring Microban™
antimicrobial protection

NEVER CAULK AGAIN!



**Tub to shower
conversion**

#1

Luxury Bath
Franchise In The USA
6 Years In A Row!

CALL FOR A **FREE In-home Consultation!** 412-446-4400 or 1-800-A-NEW-TUB

Financing Available • Lifetime Warranty

Can be installed in as little as ONE DAY!



Steve Ernrich - Melissa Ernrich
Owners

Faces You Recognize... A Name You Can Trust.

Visit Our Showroom At
1105 Washington Ave. (Rt. 50)
Carnegie, PA 15106
www.luxurybathpgh.com



PAOAGHC: 634

\$350 off

With Complete Tub Or
Pan & Wall Liner System

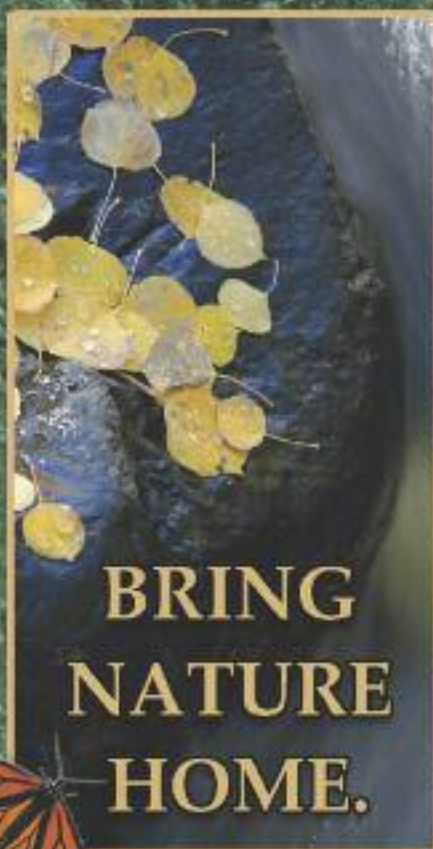
Luxury® Bath 412-446-4400 • 800-A-NEW-TUB

With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases.

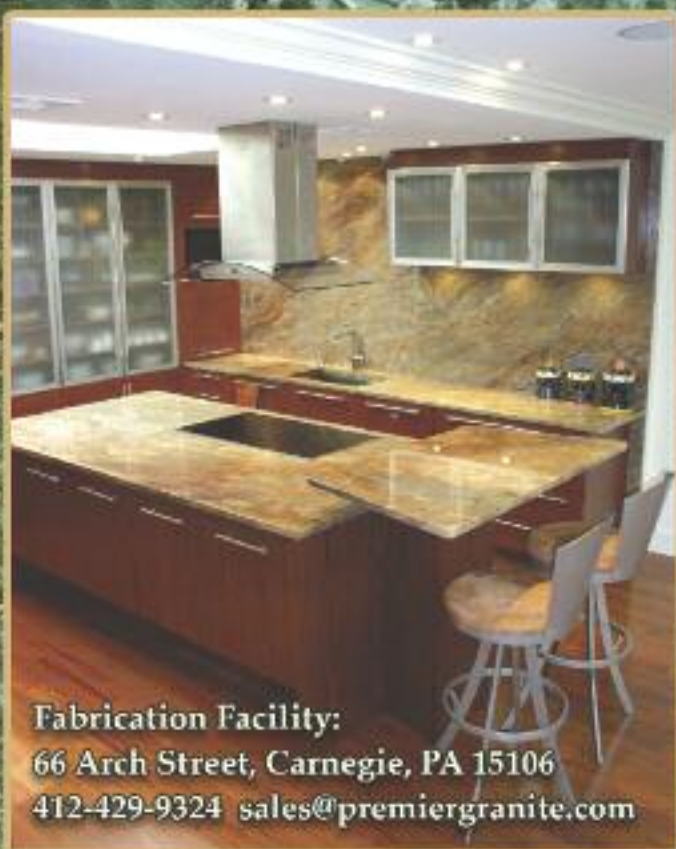
PREMIER

Granite and Stone

**Pittsburgh's
Gold Standard for Granite**



**BRING
NATURE
HOME.**



Fabrication Facility:
66 Arch Street, Carnegie, PA 15106
412-429-9324 sales@premiergranite.com

www.premiergranite.com

Designing HOME Lifestyles

PUBLISHER/EDITOR

Tom Poljak

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pete Blackwood
Valentine J. Brkich
Jordan Mantz
Kelli McElhinny
David Plantowski

ADVERTISING SALES

Nicholas Buzzell	Brian McKee
Brian Daley	David Mitchell
Gina D'Alicandro	Tamara Myers
Tina Dollard	Gabriel Negri
Rose Estes	Robert Ojeda
Beatriz Harrison	Annette Petrone
Jason Huffman	Tara Reis
Jessie Jones	Vincent Sabatini
Connie McDaniel	Michael Silvert
RJ Vighetti	

ART & PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Jim Paladino

ASSISTANT ART DIRECTOR

Renee Butor

DISTRIBUTION

Dominion Distribution

WEB SITE

www.DesigningHomeLifestyles.com

E-MAIL

info@DesigningHomeLifestyles.com

Black Bear Publishing

5107 Clairton Boulevard

Pittsburgh, PA 15236

(412) 819-5152 • Fax: (412) 819-5153

www.DesigningHomeLifestyles.com



Designing HOME Lifestyles. Copyright 2011. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction of any photographs, artwork, or copy prepared by Designing HOME Lifestyles is strictly prohibited without written consent of the Publisher. Designing HOME Lifestyles is a free publication and is published four times a year (Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter) and is distributed weekly. This magazine contains certain advertorials and first person advertisement articles which are the sole responsibility of the advertisers, and not Designing HOME Lifestyles and the Publisher. The views and representations expressed in the advertorials contained herein express the views and representations of the respective advertisers and are not those of the Publisher or Designing HOME Lifestyles and are indicated by this symbol (ADV) at the end of their advertisement. Call the Publisher at (412) 819-5152 for subscription information. Neither the advertisers, publisher or Designing HOME Lifestyles will be responsible or liable for misinformation, misprints, typographical errors, omissions, or rate change information.

STICKLEY AUDI & CO.
FINE FURNITURE SINCE 1900

Designing HOME Lifestyles

Spring Issue 2011

contents

SHOW ME THE MONEY! PART III

18

In our last issue, we gave you a few quick tips on how high-efficiency windows and doors can help you increase the value of your home and make it more attractive to potential buyers. Now we're going to take a little walk outside and talk about a purely aesthetic yet just as important feature of your home: landscaping.

"DESIGN TIME" WITH KAROLYN SPAGNOLO

37

Karolyn Spagnolo is Pittsburgh's premier interior design expert. Her work has won awards both regionally and nationally, and her clients include television celebrities and professional athletes, including some of the Pittsburgh Steelers. She is one of the most respected interior designers in the field, and now Designing HOME Lifestyles is proud to have her join our team.

OUR FAVORITE STRAWBERRY RECIPES

51

It's hard to find someone who doesn't enjoy strawberries, especially a Chocolate Covered Strawberry. After noticing a popular website offering one-half dozen Chocolate Covered Strawberries for \$39.95, the answer was simple while deciding what type of food to feature this issue.

DHL'S PET LIFESTYLES

70

In this issue we cover Caring for Your Senior Dog, give you a couple Pet Treat Recipes and give you some fast facts on pet Rabbits. Getting a new kitten? This issue we finish our installment of our A-Z Guide to New Kitten Ownership with the letters M-Z.

departments

WINE REVIEW - Wines from the City Grill

68

AT HOME WITH - Pittsburgh Passion

75

ON THE MENU - Jacksons Restaurant - Rotisserie - Bar

81

COCKTAILS AT HOME - Beer Cocktails

84

On The Cover:

Dee Schlotter, the National Color Brand Manager for PPG Pittsburgh® Paints, was instrumental in the development of the innovative Voice of Color program. Voiceofcolor.com is an interactive and comprehensive site. It provides homeowners with an engaging online experience. You are going to want to check out their Color Sense Game and so much more. See pages 12-15 for all the details.



A man and a woman are standing in the wooden frame of a house under construction. They are both smiling and looking at a large set of blueprints that the man is holding. The background shows the interior structure of the house with wooden beams and studs.

Financing New Construction

There are basically two ways to finance construction of a new home; a Construction Loan or an End Loan. Both accomplish the same thing with different methods of disbursing the funds.

Construction Loan

A Construction Loan is essentially two loans, the Construction Loan and the Permanent Loan, often referred to as a "Construction/Perm" mortgage. The Construction portion of the loan is financed with payments or draws made to the builder as different phases of the construction are completed. The builder will provide the lender with the construction agreement and the plans at the time you apply for the mortgage, allowing the lender to appraise the property and determine the amount they are willing to lend.

The total amount needed to complete the home including the down payment is then placed in an escrow account with the lender at the time of closing. No payments are due until funds from the loan proceeds are disbursed. During the construction period you make interest only payments on the amounts drawn. Once the home is complete, you will begin to make regular monthly mortgage payments.

The appraiser, or a bank inspector, will inspect the property prior to any draw disbursements to verify the work has been completed based on the original plans and specifications.

The Permanent or "Perm" Loan begins after the home is complete. This is when you begin making regular mortgage payments. The term of this portion of the loan will be the remaining number of months after the construction period.

If you are purchasing the lot at the same time as closing on the mortgage (this is very common), a portion of the mortgage loan may be used to secure the lot. The deed is then transferred into your name prior to construction. The amount

drawn from the loan to secure the lot will be considered a draw and interest-only payments will begin.

End Loan

An End Loan closes when the home is complete and the entire construction amount is paid to the builder in one payment. The lot is typically still in the builders name as well and is also paid at the closing. The builder, prior to construction, usually requires a deposit in this type of arrangement. At the time of your mortgage application, the lender will require a copy of the construction agreement and the plans to appraise the home, much like a Construction Loan. The major difference is the disbursement to the builder. A Construction Loan is paid in phases, and an end loan is one payment to the builder.

Down Payment

Both financing options require some sort of down payment as well as funds for closing costs, taxes and insurance. These can be in the form of cash from savings, the sale of your current home or existing equity in the lot.

If you own a lot, you can use the equity in the lot as your down payment. The standard amount of equity used is the price you paid for the lot.

Closing the Mortgage

Construction/Permanent Loans have only one closing which occurs prior to breaking ground. An End Loan closes after construction is complete. At the time of closing, you will need to have a Homeowner's Insurance Policy which includes builder's risk coverage as well as replacement cost, vandalism, fire and hazard. Closing is when you will also bring any funds for the down payment and closing costs.

Paying Your Taxes

During the construction period, you will be responsible for payment of the real estate taxes. Typically the tax bills due during construction are based on the lot value. Once your home is complete, your real estate taxes will be estimated based on the calculations of your new home's value done by the local schools,



Typical Draw Schedule:

The Draw Stage	% of Total Construction Price	Usage
Draw 1: Foundation	10%	Excavation; footers; waterproofing; drains
Draw 2: Framed/Under Roof	15%	Framed and under roof; beams, sub-flooring; exterior doors installed; windows installed; rough carpentry; roof papered; flashing completed
Draw 3: Rough-Ins	20%	Rough plumbing, wiring and heating
Draw 4: Exterior	20%	Brick and/or stone and/or siding; all exterior building completed, including gutters and downspouts
Draw 5: Drywall/Plaster	20%	Drywall/plaster
Draw 6: Completed	15%	Fixtures; HVAC; final floor coverings; exterior/interior painting; interior doors installed; back fill; landscaping; septic system operable and ready for occupancy

municipalities, and/or counties. At this time you will begin paying 1/12 of your taxes with your mortgage payment into an escrow account for impending tax payments.

Building a home can be enjoyable yet challenging. Understanding the financing is just as critical as understanding the construction process. If you have any questions, contact a Dollar Bank Mortgage Expert at 1-800-344-LOAN (5626).

Mike Henry
Vice President, Dollar Bank Residential Lending

Dollar Bank

Since 1855

dollarbank.com/mortgage

Mutually Inspired

You've waited long enough!

"Whether your taste is Traditional, Contemporary or Eclectic, Patete Kitchen & Bath Center will deliver a functional and attractive product you will be proud of."

Celebrating 50 Years!

Patete
KITCHEN & BATH
DESIGN CENTER

Function

Style

Celebrating 50 Years!

Patete
KITCHEN & BATH
DESIGN CENTER



**CUSTOM
CREATION
TO EXPERT
INSTALLATION**

Affordable



Haven't you waited long enough?

1105 Washington Avenue
Carnegie, PA 15106
412-279-2222 • 1-800-255-5099
www.patetekitchens.com PA License #PA625

THE VOICE OF COLOR®

PPG PITTSBURGH PAINTS



Dee Schlotter, National Color Brand Manager for PPG Pittsburgh® Paints

You ever watch those home interior design shows on cable? You know what I'm talking about—the ones where they always pick the perfect paint for every room and make it all look so easy.

Of course, it's never as easy as they make it out to be. In the real world, selecting the right paint for the job can take all the fun out of what should be an enjoyable experience. And even if you're lucky enough to select the right paint, it just never turns out as good as it does on TV.

Well, not anymore, thanks to PPG Pittsburgh® Paints innovative Voice of Color program.

PPG Pittsburgh® Paints is a nationally recognized brand trusted by painting contractors, building owners, architects, designers, and homeowners for over 100 years. A relentless focus on product development makes them the choice for discerning pros and homeowners today.

PPG Pittsburgh® Paints believes that choosing color is a personal and collaborative experience, and they strive to provide color palettes that convey individual style and personality. They also offer the most current color research

and trends for their users, so that you always have the best, most up-to-date information available. They work hard to provide color inspiration and tools that assist users in finding their own unique voice of color and achieving their vision.

PPG Pittsburgh® Paints developed the Voice of Color program (www.voiceofcolor.com) because they believe that every color has an emotional association and that people are drawn to different colors according to their own unique personalities. The program has more than 1,800 colors to choose from and offers PPG's signature five-color decorating color chips to assist homeowners in choosing colors for all the décor elements in their space.

The Voice of Color site is a comprehensive design system that provides homeowners with an engaging online experience. Here, homeowners can identify their unique "color personality" and then find the colors that best match it.

Dee Schlotter, National Color Brand Manager for PPG Pittsburgh® Paints, was instrumental in the website's development.

"Voiceofcolor.com provides innovative and useful tools for making the color selection process easier and more fun," says Schlotter. "Choosing color can be overwhelming, and our tools – the ColorSense game and our five-color Harmony color cards – help customers find colors that will work with their décor and their own personality, style, and five senses. The tools allow our customers to get to meaningful, personalized color choices."

COLOR SENSE GAME

PPG Pittsburgh® Paints believes that color conveys emotion and is able to help you express yourself. Therefore, the colors you choose for a particular space define that space, giving it personality and mood.



PPG Paint Color and Design Center located in Market Square Downtown between Crazy Mocha and GNC.





The ColorSense Game 2.0 is a unique color selection tool that helps you learn about your own distinctive personality, style, and senses. This powerful tool narrows down the many available color choices and offers you your own personalized set of colors that are perfect for the particular space or room you're working on. Nobody else makes selecting the right paint easier or more fun.

"I love the ColorSense game because it is such a personal way to find your colors," says Schotter.

INSPIRATION CAFÉ

Under this tab, you'll learn about all the hottest color trends for 2011. PPG Pittsburgh® Paints features four of these trends, which they group into four palettes: Instinct, Glamour, New Bohemia, and UpCycle.

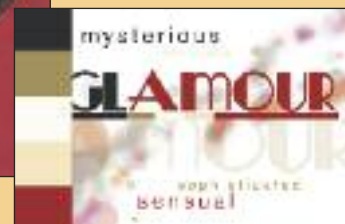
Instinct is warm and authentic, fusing the ancient, mythological, raw, and the primitive with a highly technical modern-day aesthetic. It is a unique mix of ethnic exoticism and modern sophistication.

Incorporating glistening metallics and intricate motifs, the **Glamour** palette is both glamorous and mysterious, perfect for a sophisticated decor. Contemporary and traditional all in one, it is the perfect combination of past and present.

New Bohemia represents "a whimsical sense of design, and a rebirth of craft." Here, bucolic elements combine with second-hand objects, creating a vintage aesthetic for a contemporary age.

Finally, **UpCycle** is all about living simply with a touch of elegance. This palette represents the human desire for clarity, function, and craftsmanship in order to reclaim the beauty of things past.

Continued on next page





Also in the Inspiration Café you'll find the Voice of Color Collections, one of which is the Harmony Collection™, which showcases nine exciting color families, each with a variety of five-color designer palettes. Here you can explore PPG's Interior, Exterior, Historical, and Atmospheric color statements.

The Room Index helps you find inspiration for a specific room in your house. All you have to do is click on the type of room you're looking for – living room, dining room, bathroom, office, etc. – and the Voice of Color will provide the best selection.

Here you can also learn from PPG's featured designers—experienced professionals who express their own artistic vision of space and comfort through color. These designers use the same Voice of Color Collections that PPG makes available to you, and they even use them in many of their design projects.

MY PROJECT

Under the “My Project” tab, you can try the Visions at a Glance virtual painting software, which enables you to try colors from PPG Pittsburgh® Paints Harmony Collections in sample rooms.

The Your Voice of Color Scrapbook allows you to save nine inspiring photos within one session, which you can then send to your friends or save for future reference in your personal decoration projects.

The Voice of Color calculator can help you decide things like how much paint will you need, and how much will the project cost, so that you can avoid any unpleasant surprises at buying time.

Under the “Products & Dealers” link, you'll find everything you need to know about PPG Pittsburgh® Paints' most popular brands, including all the available sheens and which one is right for your project.

The “Where to Buy” link shows you where in your particular area that you can find genuine Pittsburgh Paints products, so that you can ensure color accuracy with what you see on the Voice of Color website.

ABOUT COLOR

This useful tab will answer all your questions during your painting project. The FAQ section features answers to things like:

- How to find out about new color trends
- What colors you should use and in what proportions
- Which colors are best for you
- How to keep colors in tune with the history of the house
- How to use the 60:30:10 ratio of color

Finally, the “Tips and Advice” link can teach you how to paint laminate cupboards, or how to choose the right paintbrush for the job, or even what colors best match your personal art collection. Here you can also learn how to create your own little corner sanctuary, how to decorate with bold colors, or even how to design a warm and friendly modern kitchen. You will also find everything you need to know on color theory and how to do those popular faux finishes.



Schlotter says that since voiceofcolor.com first went live, the site has been getting around 80,000–100,000 visitors per year.

“We launched the new version of Voice of Color in 2005 and with that came a brand new website that was completely dedicated to showcasing color to our customers,” says Schlotter. “These days, color sells paint. It has become fashion for the home and always creates the most ‘wow’ factor when it is changed. Shift a wall from off white to a beautiful aqua, and it gives such a different feeling and mood. We are now working on a completely new website to provide our customers with an even better place to find everything they need for color and painting projects.

Schlotter says that many factors help PPG Pittsburgh® Paints continue to be the painting industry’s leader. “It’s not only our quality products and technology,” she says. “It’s also our global color knowledge, through more than 15 color specialists across a wide array of industries including, automotive paints, consumer electronics, glass, and industrial coatings.”

Schlotter adds that PPG offers exceptional service from more than 60 dealers in the Pittsburgh area including, Westmoreland Supply Paint and Decorating, Masterwork Paint and Decorating Centers (various Pittsburgh locations) and Rollier’s Hardware in Mt. Lebanon.

For more information, visit www.voiceofcolor.com.

PPG Pittsburgh Paints National Color Show Team

Left to Right: Carolyn Spagnolo, Jeanette Waksmunski, Steve Shorthouse and Fawn Chang.



Don't be a "Before."



Dingy. Dark. Dull.

Do your floors suffer from the Triple-Ds?

Depressing.



Be an "After."



Let the professionals at S & S Flooring restore the warmth to your wood floors.

Call today to learn more and arrange your free in home estimate.

412.628.0958



612 Broadway Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
PA#153146

Since 1947

BRIDGEVILLE APPLIANCE



GE imagination at work

GE Profile Side-by-Side Refrigerators

GE Profile side-by-side refrigerators are loaded with innovative features designed to make every kitchen more functional...and more beautiful!

GE Profile™ Cooktops

Available in both gas and electric, kitchen cooktops are independent from the oven cavity. They are designed to have an integrated look with kitchen countertops. A cooktop can be installed over a built-in wall oven or warming drawer, or simply on its own in a countertop or kitchen island. The design possibilities in your kitchen are almost endless!

GE's New Appliance Innovations Make Life Easier

Good kitchen design doesn't stop with style — it must also keep up with the fast pace of modern life. New kitchen appliances like the exclusive GE Profile Advantium® ovens, or the new SmartDispense™ dishwashers offer the innovation your busy life demands.





**GE Profile™ Dishwashers with
SmartDispense™ Technology**

Featuring the new GE Profile™ Dishwashers
GE Profile dishwashers are a stylish addition
to any kitchen. Choose between a sleek,
modern top-control look or a contemporary,
yet traditional, look in-front controls, or you
can opt not to see the dishwasher at all, by
choosing a custom panel model which will blend
seamlessly into adjacent cabinetry.

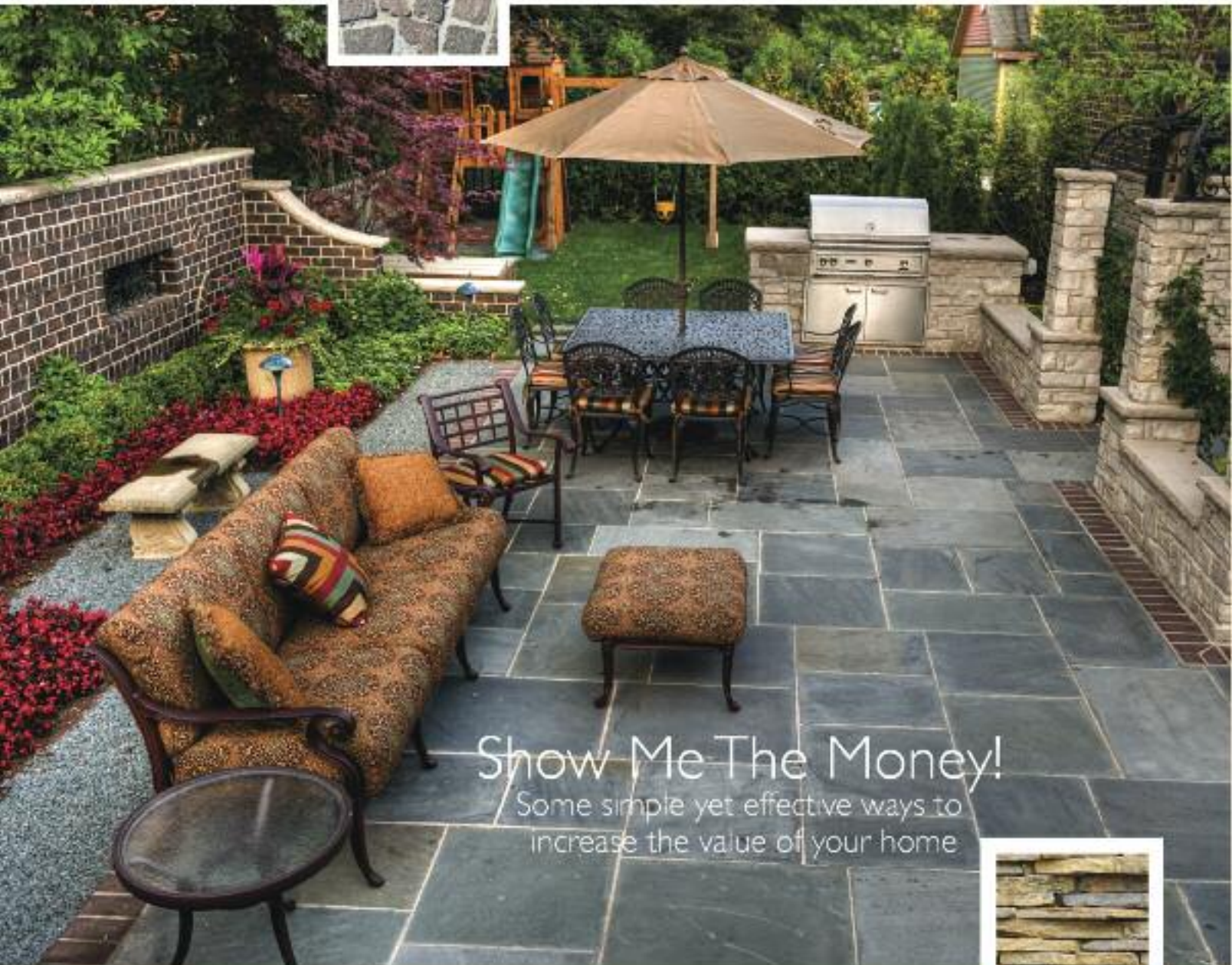
GE Profile™ Wall Ovens

Be bold in your kitchen with the clean look
of GE Profile wall ovens. Now you can have
an oven that looks as great as it cooks.

Since 1947
BRIDGEVILLE APPLIANCE

"Our Family Serving Yours Since 1947"
532 Washington Avenue • Bridgeville, PA 15107
(412) 221-7313
www.bridgevilleappliance.com

"Quality, Selection and Service That Fits Your Lifestyle"



Show Me The Money!
Some simple yet effective ways to
increase the value of your home



Part III – Landscaping

By Valentine J. Brkich

In our last issue, we gave you a few quick tips on how high-efficiency windows and doors can help you increase the value of your home and make it more attractive to potential buyers. Now we're going to take a little walk outside and talk about a purely aesthetic yet just as important feature of your home: landscaping.

Imagine you're a potential homebuyer driving around looking at homes. You see a house at the end of the block. It's just what you've been looking for! You pull up to the curb in front to get a closer look...and your enthusiasm is quickly diminished. Sure, the house itself looks nice, but look at the yard: the hedges are overgrown, the lawn is dry and patchy, there are no colorful

flowers, and there are no trees to provide shade. It's just too much to take on. So, you drive away and continue your search.

Meanwhile, for the homeowners, another potential buyer just slipped through their fingers.

Don't underestimate the value of quality, well-designed landscaping. Of course, homebuyers want an attractive, well-built and well-



maintained house. But just as a great book cover can catch your eye and get you to pick up a book, a well-designed yard can also grab the attention of a potential buyer and get them to take the next step in possibly buying your home.

And, oh yeah, good landscaping can actually increase your home's value. Need we say more?

But don't take our word for it. Consult any licensed Realtor or home inspector and they'll tell you how important landscaping can be. And we're not just talking about plants and trees and grass. Good landscaping incorporates attractive walkways and stone walls; it involves adding a garden statue here or a quiet little nook over there. Landscaping is an art form, and that's why you need to make sure you consult a professional.

Just ask Angela Yelich, a Realtor with Coldwell Banker Select. "First impressions are everything," says Yelich. "Potential buyers start developing opinions the second they see a home. Anything to make that first impression a good one will increase a seller's chance for an offer. The key is to get them in the door. If the front yard is well-manicured, it will create an inviting atmosphere."

When you're looking to improve your home's curb appeal, you don't have to undertake a huge project, either. Sometimes it's the little things that can make the biggest impact. Something as simple as installing accent lighting in your

gardens can make a big difference. Lighting is a great way to highlight the beauty of your plants and trees, and it serves as added security as well, which is always a plus.

Another thing to remember is that less is more. Today people are busier than ever, and they don't have a lot of time for upkeep. Doing things like mulching and planting a good ground cover can not only provide some additional color to your yard, it can also cut down on maintenance time, which will be an attractive feature to many homebuyers.

One of the more involved but value-added landscaping projects you can invest in are water features. Things like fountains and ponds are very popular in our region, and they can add a touch of tranquility to any yard. People love the look and sound of water, and a beautiful pond or fountain can help you create a relaxing, peaceful getaway that will catch the eye of potential buyers.

Of course, no one knows more about the value of quality landscaping than a professional landscaper.

Eisler Landscapes (eislerlandscapes.com), based in Prospect, is one of the region's most respected and talented landscape design companies. They've been working in the Pittsburgh region for years, and this experience has taught them what plants and trees grow well in our region, based on our unique soils and climate. Eisler's

Continued on next page

Photo courtesy of Aqua Pool, Inc.



"Doing things like mulching and planting a good ground cover can not only provide some additional color to your yard, it can also cut down on maintenance time, which will be an attractive feature to many homebuyers."



Photo courtesy of Eisler Landscapes





Photo courtesy of
Eisler Landscapes

talented employees are highly skilled in everything from conceptual design and planning to planting, installation, maintenance and more.

“Great landscaping isn’t just about laying new sod or planting colorful plants and trees,” says Eric French, president of Eisler Landscapes. “It’s about designing something that fits the homeowner’s unique personality, while at the same time complementing and improving the overall look of the home. And to do that, you need someone who knows what works in this area and what doesn’t. We have that type of experience.”

French notes that trees, shrubs, and well-kept flower gardens can add instant curb appeal to your home, making for a shorter time on the market. He also touches on one of the more popular trends in landscaping today—the “outdoor room.”

“Outdoor living spaces are becoming and expected amenity by most luxury home buyers,” says French. “The idea is that your yard is actually an extension of your home’s interior.”

Now, if you’re in southern California, where the weather is beautiful and sunny year-round, designing your outdoor room is a piece of cake. But around here, where the weather changes “every five minutes,” as people like to say, it takes a little more thought and ingenuity. That’s where a professional can help.

French says that outdoor kitchens are big right now.

“Cooking and cooking shows are so popular nowadays, and now, more than ever, outdoor kitchens are on the top of our customers’ wish lists,” he says. “We love working on these projects because they not only create another exciting living space for your family, they also increase your home’s overall value.”

Eisler can work closely with you to design the outdoor kitchen of your dreams.

“Whether you’re looking to build a wood-fired oven or maybe install a barbeque island, we can help you make your vision a reality,” says French. “Best of all, when you build an outdoor kitchen with Eisler, you can be sure that you’ll get a high return on your investment.”

Another surefire way to increase your home’s value is by adding a swimming pool. Now, I know what you’re thinking. I thought pools actually decreased the value?

Well, according to a recent study by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), a well-designed and built in-ground pool can actually increase your home’s value anywhere from 8 to 15 percent. The study, which took place in 21 counties in four states – Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland – was based on data from nearly 30,000 homes sold in those regions.



Photo courtesy of
Aqua Pool, Inc.



*Project shown was design-built by
Eisler Landscapes, Inc. and Aqua Pool, Inc.*



Of course, this wasn't a big surprise to Randall Kolson, vice president of **Aqua Pool, Inc.** (aquapoolinc.com).

"It's been a common misconception that swimming pools, in general, lower your home's value," says Kolson. "However, as we've always known at Aqua Pool, a well-designed and constructed pool will always add value to your home and make it more attractive to potential buyers."

Aqua Pool Inc. has been serving the needs of residential and commercial clients across the Mid Atlantic region since 1956. Their crew of seasoned construction personnel has years of experience and the ability to make a reality of the creations generated from our design and engineering department.

"Each project is custom-designed for your specific application," says Kolson. "We listen carefully to our customers and do our best to make their vision come to life. Basically, if you can imagine

it, we can design it. And we guarantee you'll be satisfied with the results."

Installing a quality outdoor kitchen or pool are both great ways to enhance your yard's landscaping. Some of other things you may want to consider include:

- Installing a brick paver walk or patio
- Adding a spacious deck, using low-maintenance Veka decking
- Creating a flagstone walkway
- Planting shade trees

Continued on next page



Photo courtesy of
Eisler Landscapes

- Using low-maintenance shrubbery to hide unsightly utilities
- Bordering sections of your yard with a well-designed stone wall.

As you can see, there are a number of ways that you can improve your home's value through quality landscaping. The key is to find a professional, experience landscape company to work with you

closely from conceptualization to installation. When you do this, you'll improve your home's curb appeal and help it make the best possible first impression on potential buyers. ▽

Next up, Bathroom Remodeling. Stay tuned...

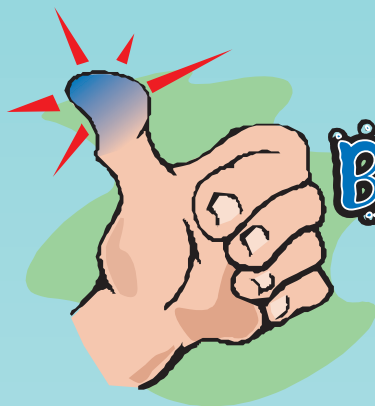
Source: Janice Rhoshalle Littlejohn "Study reveals pools add value to homes." Pool & Spa News. FindArticles.com. 21 Feb, 2011.
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_mONTB/is_8_43/ai_115493425/

Our Professionals:

Aqua Pool, Inc.
1438 Electric Avenue
East Pittsburgh, PA 15112
www.aquapoolinc.com
(412) 824-6900

Eisler Landscapes
1031 New Castle Road
Box 465, Prospect, PA 16052
www.eislerlandscapes.com
800-420-8733





BLUE THUMB GARDENER

By David Plantowski



Planning Your Vegetable Garden for 2011 **PART 3**

To all my fellow “blue-thumb” gardeners who have taken the leap of faith and have decided to plant a garden this year—congratulations! You have now joined the legion of thousands of fellow backyard gardeners in western Pennsylvania.

Hopefully you’ve read my past features and, therefore, are not going to plant too many plants your first year. Try to avoid the temptation. I know the thought of making salsa, sauce, and having plenty of tomatoes to share with friends and family is tempting.

The goal for year one is a successful and stress-free garden. If you go too big it could be overwhelming, and that is what you want to try to avoid. Making the best of your time in the garden will make this a pleasant and enjoyable process that you’ll want to do year after year.

So now that you’ve done your homework, talked to your local farm markets, and decided on what to plant, the next step is proper execution. Hopefully you prepared your ground last fall, tilled your garden this year, fed your ground with nutrients, and nurtured your new plants as if they were young children. Taking proper care of the plants before they are in the ground is half the battle.

You can’t wait too long to select your tomato plants from your local farm market. If you do they will be picked over or simply sold out. Buy them early and take care of them until ready to plant. Do this while they are still in pots and then bring them outside during the sunny warm spring days. Then bring them back inside at night to protect them from the cold and possible frost.

The next step is the actual planting of the tomatoes. Start by planting them approximately two and a half feet apart. The plants won’t begin to set fruit until the overnight low is regularly above 55 degrees. Once again I suggest talking to your local farmers for advice in your area. Remember,

frost will kill your plants. Once the plants are in the ground and you encounter an unusually cold night with a frost warning, you’ll need to cover your plants to protect them.

Many home gardeners will put stakes in the ground as soon as they plant. A stake can be a store-bought metal coated one or simply a one-inch by two-inch piece of wood, approximately four feet tall. One stake between two plants will help you “tie” your plants as they start to get larger and need additional support from the weight of the fruit. Pound the stakes into the ground just far enough that they are firmly set.

Some use store-bought cages, but the best method I’ve found is buying wooden stakes and using a cloth material that will easily tear into long strips for your ties. Use a cloth that is similar to a thin one you’d use to clean a window. Cut the strips about an inch wide. Once you have a small cut in the cloth, they will tear very easily.

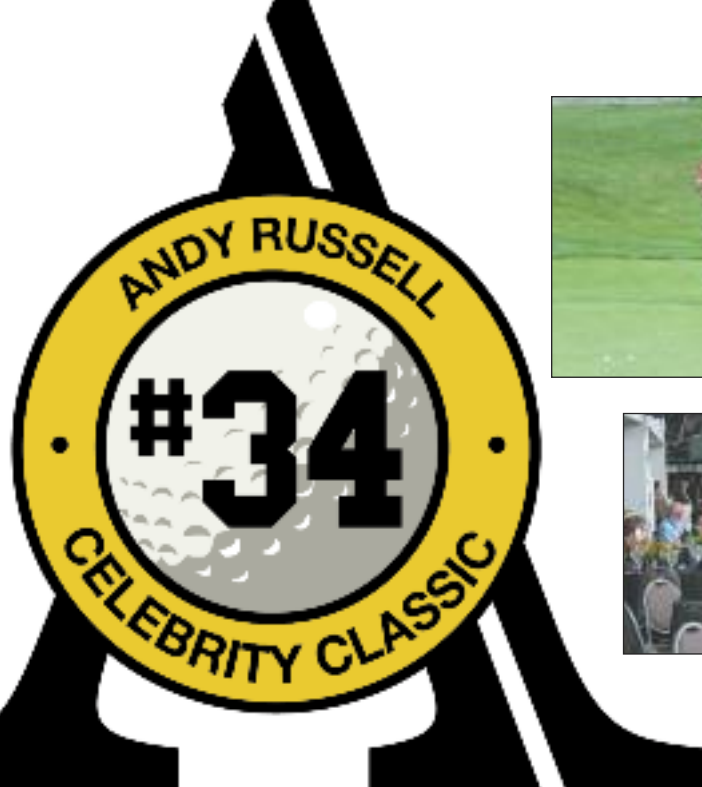
When you tie your plants, remember to be gentle around the stalks. Also remember to use a shoelace-style tie. This will help you retie the plants as they begin to grow and the ties get loose. Alternate the ties from one side of the plant to the other to make sure you have good support from both sides.

You need plenty of sun for your tomato plants to flourish. You’ll also need consistent watering to ensure best results. If you do not intend to water your garden daily, do not expect good result. Let me repeat that one more time: Water your plants daily! If you miss a day or two, it is not the end of the world; but if you go on vacation, make sure someone is watering your plants while you’re away.

Another item up for debate when it comes to tomato plants is how to let your plants grow. Some local experts insist on only allowing one stem to develop and pulling off suckers (the sprouts that form between branches and the main stem) when they first appear. Some gardeners remove all but two or three in an effort to grow only the largest and best fruit possible.

Continued on page 25





He was selected for seven NFL Pro Bowls; served as the Pittsburgh Steelers team captain for 10 years; was the defensive MVP in 1968 and 1970 and team MVP in 1971; he helped the Steelers win the Super Bowl in 1974 and 1975; he was chosen by the NFL Hall of Fame Selection Committee for the NFL All Pro Team of the 1970s; he was named one of the NFL's "300 Greatest Players," and he is



a member of the Pennsylvania Hall of Fame and the University of Missouri Hall of Fame.

But the greatest of all of Andy Russell's achievements may be the millions of dollars he's raised over the years for worthwhile charities and organizations.

And he's not finished yet.

The Andy Russell Celebrity Classic is one of the most distinctive and well known golf tournaments in western Pennsylvania. Russell started the tournament 35 years ago with his friends Sam Zacharias and Walt Bent.

Year after year Russell's former teammates and other NFL greats, such as Bobby Bell, Floyd Little, Rocky Bleier, Mel Blount, Jack Hamm, and Frenchy Fuqua, to name a few, take part in this important event to help raise money for those in need. Pittsburgh Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin serves as the tournament's honorary co-chair.

The tournament is also supported by legendary members of the Pittsburgh Pirates and the world of golf—people like Arnold Palmer, Bob Friend, Bill Mazeroski, Steve Blass, Dave Guisti, and Manny Sanguillen.

This year's tournament will take place on Friday, May 20, at The Club at Nevillewood, and it will benefit the Department of Urology at UPMC and the Andy Russell Charitable Foundation.

The Club at Nevillewood was designed by PGA legend Jack Nicklaus and is considered one of the finest courses in western Pennsylvania. During the tournament, foursomes are paired up with a celebrity athlete for a round of golf. Immediately afterwards, attendees gather for cocktails, dinner, and an award ceremony.

A pre-tournament party for athletes and sponsors will be held on Thursday, May 19, at Heinz Field's East Club Lounge.

Established in March 1999, the Andy Russell Charitable Foundation primarily contributes funds to children's charities. The Foundation hopes to support a number of programs, particularly important mediation research organizations concentrating on those for children.

Over the years Russell has raised over \$5 million dollars for his foundation, Children's Hospital, UPMC children's charities, and cancer research. His service awards include being named the Man of the Year for the Mel Blount Youth Home (1985); Big Brothers and Sisters Man of the Year (1989); Bob Prince Award (1992), Hance Award for St. Barnabas Foundation (1992); Celebrity Roast Honoree for the Mel Blount Annual Dinner (2001); Chairman of the American Heart Association Heart Ball (2002); Don Faurot Distinguished American Award (2005); Economics of Pennsylvania, Adam Smith Distinguished Leadership Award (2005); and the Myron Cope Legends in Sports Award (2008).

For more information on the Andy Russell Celebrity Classic or the Russell Family Foundation, visit Russell's website at andyrussell.org/classic.





Continued from page 23

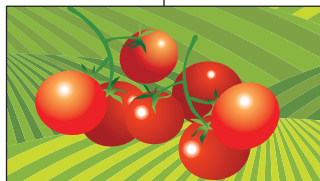
BLUE THUMB GARDENER

Some also believe in eliminating fruit from the top of the vine, while leaving only older fruit at the bottom and only allowing one fruit per cluster. Others will tell you to just let the plants go, and you'll harvest a lot of great tomatoes. Experiment and determine what you personally want to do. There is no 100% right or wrong way to grow your plants. One thing is for sure, though: you'll have to be careful of tomatoes touching the ground. If they touch the ground without attention, it could ruin that fruit.

When to harvest is very important. Some home gardeners harvest too early in fear of deer or other vermin eating the ripened fruit. Try to hold out as long as you can. The more fully ripened the tomatoes the better the taste and size.

Once you pick your tomatoes, try to store them in a dark, warm, dry place. Try to avoid refrigerating tomatoes. Fresh tomatoes begin losing flavor rather quickly once they are stored below 55 degrees.

You'll also need to manage your harvest. If you start accumulating too many tomatoes, you'll need to make sure you plan to make salsa or sauce.



Cooked tomato sauce will freeze well, and the vinegar in your salsa will make it stay fresh in your refrigerator for a good week. Also, remember that your friends, family, and neighbors will gladly take a tomato or two if offered. Try not to waste any tomatoes; you've worked too hard to let even one of them go to waste!

I have a question for you: Have you ever tried the salsa recipe *Designing HOME Lifestyles* published many years ago? I'm going to ask our publisher to pull that recipe out of the archives for our next installment of the Blue Thumb Gardener. Many people have claimed that recipe is the best they have ever made—I have to agree. I'm getting hungry just thinking about it!

Here is some good advice: Consider adding a few additional plants to your tomato garden for use in salsa. Look into growing banana peppers, jalapenos, green peppers, and onions. Plant just a few plants of each and maybe a row of onions. That's your homework until next time when you and your friendly Blue Thumb Gardener will be enjoying our homemade salsa from our very own gardens! ▽

Save Time, Save Money
Do it Right the First Time:

Hire an
**INTERIOR
DESIGNER**

American Society of
Interior Designers

is your source for experienced,
talented designers.

Our professionals will create a
space that meets your
residential or commercial needs.



PENNSYLVANIA
WEST

To find the right designer for you,
Use our **Designer Referral Service** at
asidpawest.org or call (412) 882-4424

"AT LAST, OLD-WORLD CRAFTSMANSHIP
MEETS MODERN TECHNOLOGY,
WITH NO HASSLE DESIGN AND INSTALLATION!"

Discover Why Craftsmanship Counts...

In addition to cabinetry for the home, Woodland Legacy supplies cabinetry for commercial projects, such as the newly remodeled Bobby Rahal Motorcar facility in Wexford. The custom-built items include an entertainment center, two coffee bars, and new parts-and-service counters.



The project for Team Rahal has been a great experience," says Woodland Legacy project coordinator

Jim Leslie. "I recommend visiting their showroom to see not only the cabinetry but their selection of automobiles as well. They were a pleasure to work with!"



In an age of mass-production, where cabinetry and furniture are formulaically built in assembly lines, there are a handful of companies that still adhere to traditional values of craftsmanship. Western PA-based Woodland Legacy is one such company.

Woodland Legacy designs, builds, and installs beautiful, handcrafted, solid wood cabinetry. The company's craftsmen undertake a wide variety of projects including kitchens, bathrooms, closets, built-ins, architectural mill work, and custom furniture.

"We know new cabinetry is a major investment for homeowners, one they probably won't get a second chance at, so we take the time to make sure things are done the right way," says project coordinator Jim Leslie. "Each project is uniquely designed and built to meet our clients' exacting specifications for both fit and finish. And the work is guaranteed."



With the endless variety of choices available today, shopping for cabinetry can be overwhelming. Some common assumptions are that all cabinetry is built the same and that cabinets ordered from a catalog will meet everyone's needs. But that is not the case.

"Fabricating and installing our own cabinets gives us a unique advantage," Jim explains. "At each step in the manufacturing process, knowledge of the final installation can be incorporated. This is something that simply cannot be done with factory cabinets."

The response to Woodland Legacy's approach has been extremely positive.

"Woodland Legacy designed, constructed, and installed our brand-new kitchen cabinetry, plus kitchen table and chairs," says Lisa Sbei of Bethel Park. "They were very patient and spent a lot of time with us in developing the design so we received *exactly* the design we wanted, which would not have been possible with off-the-shelf cabinetry."

Jim recalls the first time he talked with Lisa. "She explained to me that they were very particular in regards to the quality of work to be done. I smiled and said that they were *our* type of customer."

"It was a pleasure dealing with them throughout the entire process," says Lisa. "The quality of workmanship was excellent, and their customer service is top notch. We have received many compliments from friends and family on the beauty of our kitchen."

Jim stresses that Woodland Legacy's custom approach is not cost-prohibitive. "Most people would be surprised to find out just how affordable it can be. I vividly remember meeting a couple at last year's Pittsburgh Home Show. After describing our approach, the man said that it sounded great, but there was no way he would be able to afford it. We installed the hickory kitchen of his dreams last June."



To have a FREE 2011 Cabinetry Idea Kit mailed to you, call our toll-free number, 866-724-9663, or visit www.WoodlandLegacy.com/Idea. The kit includes wood samples, project photos, and our planning guide, *Are All Cabinets Created Equal? Nine Questions Every Homeowner Needs to Ask*.

WOODLAND LEGACY
WWW.WOODLANDLEGACY.COM
1-866-724-9663

PA License #063718

ECONUNDRUMS: YOUR GREEN-LIVING QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Cleaning an Oven

Q: Is there a natural way to clean your oven?

A: Conventional oven cleaner and other degreasers are among the most toxic household products around, according to the Washington Toxics Coalition. I never use anything but a homemade paste: Mix 2 cups baking soda, 1 cup washing soda (found in laundry aisles), 1 teaspoon dish soap and 1 tablespoon white vinegar. (You can thin it with a bit of water if necessary.) Wearing gloves – I prefer heavy cotton to plastic – scour the oven's interior with a scrubber, rag, and hot water to remove crust that hasn't yet stuck solid. Apply thickly to all sides of the oven and leave overnight. In the morning, put gloves on and scrub, wiping with a wet cloth until all traces are gone.



Kinder Knits

Q: How can I find knitting wool that's processed and dyed in environmentally sound ways?

A: A certified humane or USDA organic raw wool label means the sheep were raised sustainably and humanely, but it doesn't cover the processing of the wool. If the yarn itself is labeled GOTS (Global Organic Textile Standard), then it was processed with low-impact chemicals. Look for one of three types of dyes: Oeko-Tex certified are free of lead; fiber-reactive won't run off in wastewater; and cold patch dyes use less energy, water, and chemicals. Purchase organic yarns from O-wool or the Green Mountain Spinnery, or find local shops through knitmap.com.

Sleep vs. Shutdown

Q: Is it better to shut my computer down or put it in sleep mode overnight?



A: While sleep mode reduces energy drain by 70 percent, using none is even better – and so the U.S.

Department of Energy advises turning your computer off if you're not going to be using it for 2 hours or more. Do make sure it's plugged into a power strip and switch this off to prevent phantom energy drain from the socket. Or better still, use a smart power strip, which registers your absence and turns itself off.



Compostable Trash Bags

Q: Do biodegradable trash bags actually make a difference in the landfill?

A: Alas, while the idea of biodegradability is enormously appealing, all these bags are likely to do is add bulk to the pile. The typical landfill, whose compacted contents never get sunlight and oxygen, cannot support the bacteria that do the biodegrading. While manufacturers claim their plant-based, bioplastic bags will biodegrade in 45 days when composted, trying this in your backyard will only disappoint.

A 2010 test placed five brands of bioplastic bags in compost piles for 180 days and found that, while one did turn a rotten brown, four did not change at all. Bioplastic composting requires an industrial omposter that reaches 140 degrees Fahrenheit.

Still, whether or not your town is one of the few that composts them, bioplastics are a greener option than conventional trash bags because they're made from renewable resources rather than fossil fuels. (Make sure your bags bear the BPI compostable label.)

Choosing a Greener Paint

Q: How important is low-VOC paint? Don't the VOCs go away after it dries?



A: Low- or no-VOC paint is very important for achieving cleaner air, indoors and out. The VOCs (volatile organic compounds) that evaporate from regular paint can include some nasty respiratory irritants, nervous-system toxicants and chemicals linked to cancer. Tests conducted by the EPA found these gases can migrate out of latex paint for more than six months.



Cooking with Aluminum Foil

Q: Mom always told me cooking with aluminum foil will result in chemicals leaching into my food. Is that true?

A: Mom was probably thinking about the Alzheimer scare a few decades back, in which aluminum cookware was suspected of contributing to the onset of dementia. Aluminum was released from culpability on that score once all the studies were in, but, according to Dr. Janet Gray of the Breast Cancer Fund, aluminum can mimic estrogen and, although there as yet are no studies that make the connection, a possible risk factor for breast cancer.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control has a long list of the possible toxic properties of aluminum, none of which have been conclusively proven, but still ...

For intensive daily cooking, you might prefer to use pots and pans made of glass, cast iron, stainless steel or anodized aluminum, which will not leach toxins or toxic chemicals into food. But one can't beat the convenience of lightweight foil in a toaster oven or as a cover for a roast or pie, and I wouldn't worry, because it's not as if you're really cooking in it. Do wash, reuse or recycle foil, though, if it's not too stuck- or gunked-up, because the extraction of aluminum from bauxite ore is environmentally damaging.



Bathing Conservatively

Q: Set the record straight once and for all: Is taking a bath better for the planet than taking a shower?

A: As much as I love a good soak in the tub, I have to admit that it's a bigger drain on the earth. A typical bath takes 30 to 70 gallons of water, according to the EPA, while the average eight-minute shower uses only 17 gallons, reports the Alliance for Water Efficiency. A bath also uses more fuel to heat water, which means more pollution and greenhouse-gas emissions from the power plant that supplies your home.

I find a five-minute wash under a low-flow showerhead gets me squeaky clean with only 12.5 gallons and no sense of deprivation (well, almost!). The reward: You've earned the occasional indulgence of a good, long bath.

Removing Lead Paint

Q: I just learned I have lead paint. What do I do?



A: Although lead-based paint was banned in 1978 because the neurotoxic metal can damage children's developing brains, more than half of U.S. homes still

contain it, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Don't try to remove lead paint yourself. Note its condition: If the paint is flaking, peeling, or creating dust, it can easily be eaten or inhaled. Don't vacuum it! Whether you're spring-cleaning or starting a renovation, use a licensed lead abatement specialist and keep yourself and your family away until the work is finished and thoroughly cleaned up.

Happily, EPA regulations implemented in April, 2010 require all contractors working on renovations and repairs of pre-1978 homes to be certified for lead paint removal. To find one, and get more lead safety tips, go to EPA.gov/lead or call the National Lead Information Center Hotline and Clearinghouse for a free pamphlet: 1-800-424-5323.



Recycling Shoes

Q: Can I recycle my old sneakers somewhere?

A: Absolutely. You can extend the life of wearable old shoes by donating them to non-profits that give footwear to the needy all over the world. See a list of organizations at eco-efficiency.com.

If your sneakers have plumb run out of juice, Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program accepts all brands of athletic shoes and has repurposed millions of pairs into sports surfaces for playgrounds, running tracks, and basketball courts.



Reducing Junk Mail

Q: How can I reduce the amount of junk mail I get?

A: Stopping the deluge is free and easy through Catalog Choice. On their site, you search for participating companies (they're almost all there!) and check them off. It can take up to three months to fully take effect, but trust me, it works. Another free – and often faster – option is to call companies on the toll-free customer service phone number in the catalog.

To remove your name from junk-mail lists, use the Direct Mail Association's online service. It costs only \$1. Or, subscribe to Precycle (formerly Green Dimes). For \$36 a year, they'll declutter your mailbox and plant five trees on your behalf.



Bottle Cap Confusion

Q: Can you recycle bottle caps along with bottles?

A: Actually, we must keep bottle caps out of the recycling bin. Not only are they not recyclable in most

cities, but it turns out these little nuggets can really gum up the works at the recycling plant.

They're generally made of a different plastic resin – Polypropylene (PP) #5 – which has a much higher melting point than the bottles, which are mostly Polyethylene (PET) #1. The unmelted caps in a vat of liquid PET can ruin the whole batch, not to mention clog the machines.

What to do with these pesky PP toppers? Drop them off at the nearest Aveda store for recycling, or mail them to the Recap Company in Ohio.

Throwing Away Glass

Q: I've heard that throwing away some glass is actually good because it helps break down other trash in the landfill. Is that true?



A: No. Honestly, the tons of trash in landfills are usually so tightly packed that there's no oxygen available to enable decomposition. Glass is inert, which means it doesn't react with other substances, so it's one of the rare materials that can be recycled over and over without any loss of quality. Dumping it in the landfill would be an unconscionable waste of the energy and natural resources used to produce it, says Susan Collins, executive director of the Container Recycling Institute.



Disposing of Mattresses

Q: What's the most eco-friendly way to get rid of a mattress?

A: You could try donating it to a local charity, but often health departments won't allow it. Try giving it away on Craigslist.org or Freecycle.org. Or search Earth911.org to see if there's a center near you that can recycle the steel and the fiber inside the mattress.



Unclogging a Drain

Q: How can I unclog a drain without loads of toxins?

A: A clogged drain is bad enough – why add injury to insult? Conventional drain cleaners contain toxic chemicals such as sodium hydroxide, the active ingredient in chlorine bleach. The fumes can cause breathing difficulty and nausea; the product can burn your skin. Furthermore, drain cleaners can react with ammonia, another common ingredient in household cleaners, to produce a form of chlorine gas, used as a chemical weapon in the first world war. Finally, their corrosive action can damage pipes.

To tackle a clog without these chemicals, you'll want to try a combination of boiling water, vinegar and baking soda. You may also need a wire coat hanger or a plumber's snake, or a greener enzyme drain cleaner.



Dry Cleaning

Q: What's an eco-friendly dry cleaner? Should I be using one?

A: The best eco-friendly dry cleaners use green alternatives to the standard highly toxic cleaning solvent known as perchloroethene, or "perc." Perc fumes cause that cloying, sweet dry cleaning smell. Symptoms of perc exposure can include dizziness, headache, nausea, and skin and lung irritation, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The International Agency for Research on Cancer lists perc as a "probable human carcinogen." In short, perc's bad stuff and should be avoided as much as possible, even if it means washing delicates in cold water at home.

If you need to send your clothes out, look for a professional cleaning shop that uses an alternative method, such as "wet cleaning" or liquid CO₂.



Cold-Water Washing

Q: Can clothes really get clean in cold water?

A: Yes, really! Cold water will clean your laundry as well as hot most of the time. Plus your laundry area will be cooler, and you'll use 90 percent less energy.

But there are exceptions. Unsanitary items, such as diapers, should be cleaned in hot water; so should bedding, to kill allergenic dust mites. For other heavily soiled items, try warm water; it still saves energy compared with hot.



Curbside Recycling

Q: Do I need to wash out my bottles and containers before putting them in the recycle bins?

A: Yes, but gently: Think degunked rather than pristine clean. Plastics, glass, and cans will be sorted, cleaned, and broken down at the recycling center. All we need to do is prep them for their journey, the way we scrape dishes before loading them into the dishwasher.

Mindy Pennybacker is author of "Do One Green Thing" and editor of GreenerPenny.com.

Reprinted in part from www.wholeliving.com: Green Home Guide – Ask the Eco-Expert – Whole Living



Part III

It's Not So Easy Being Green



Green – The New Color of Primrose Homes

By Valentine J. Brkich

THE FIRST EVER NAHB CERTIFIED SPEC HOME IN THE REGION.

Over the last few issues, we've been highlighting Primrose Homes and their journey to completing the area's first National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) Certified Gold Green home. It's a project that Primrose Owner Jeff Martin is very proud of, and Designing HOME Lifestyles has been there every step of the way to document the progress.

Now, as they work on the first stages of finishing, i.e., installation of hardwood floor surfaces, cabinetry, trim work, etc., they're finally starting to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

Adam Stickle serves as operations manager for Primrose Homes. "We currently are installing flooring and trim on the interior of the house and building cabinetry," he says. "This stage will take us into March, and then we will start the final painting of the house on the inside and installing counter tops."

Stickle says that they've faced a lot of challenges along the way, which is to be expected in a project as ambitious as this.

"The challenges in green building can be summed up in two words: education and management," he says. "The first challenge



is to educate both the general public and your team of vendors and craftsmen as to what is truly green, and what practices and supplies meet green standards. What's unique about being a certified green professional with NAHB is the fact that you are working to a third-party standard. There are many companies/builders who say they are green; however, when you ask them specifically what makes them green that can't give you documentation and independent verification of their practices.

"So the first challenge is education," says Stickle. "We have to educate ourselves."

Primrose Homes invested significant time and money into becoming educated in the proper methods and practices of green building. First they had to research their vendors to make sure that they also met the NAHB green standards. Then they had to educate those same vendors and craftsmen.

"We held meetings with each of the companies involved prior to starting the process, in order to educate them about the NAHB green standards," says Stickle. "At each session we gave an overview of



the entire green practice as well as specifically taking a look at the standards that relate to each company. We felt it was important for each person to not only be educated but also invest time in researching the NAHB green standards themselves."

The second biggest challenge Primrose has faced throughout this project has been the management process.

"There is a significant amount of paperwork that has to be compiled and submitted," says Stickle. "We have to submit product specifications for each of the products that are claimed as being green-certified. We also have to have photo documentation for the standards we are claiming to use as our part of our certification."

Continued on next page



**Working together
to create quality homes
for 35 Years!**



**Spray Foam
Seamless Gutters
Fiberglass Insulation
Mirrors • Shower Doors
Closet Shelving
Garage Storage Systems**

*Competitive Pricing
Professional Installation
Excellent Service • Quality Products*

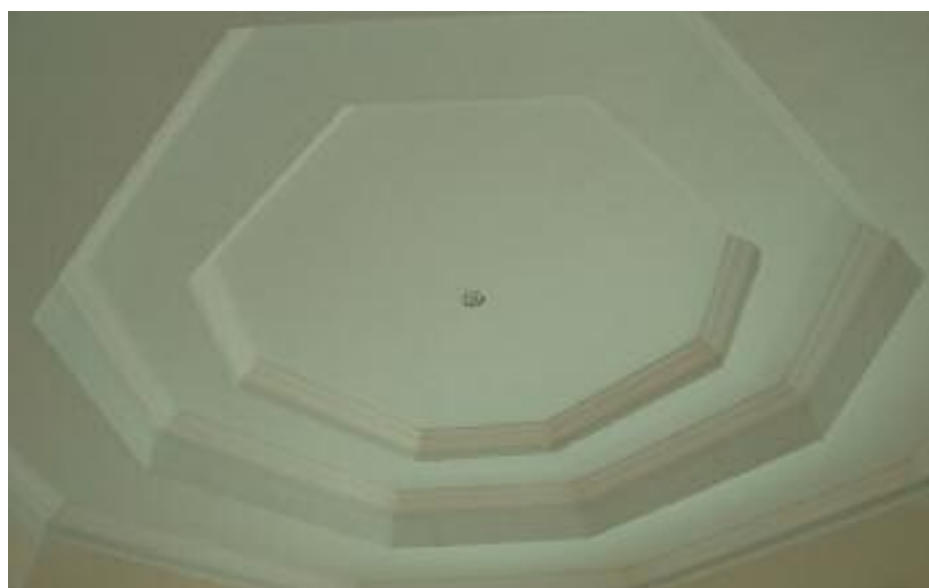
193 Crowe Ave.
Mars, PA 16046
724-625-2257
www.suburban-insulation.com
Registered PA Contractor #PA000275



FROM THIS TO:

One Never Regrets Quality

Costello Door and Millwork Co.
3151 Henderson Rd Washington, Pa 15301
costelodoor.com 724-228-0999



Stickle says that the time it takes to manage the green-building process is something that many residential builders don't have. "In fact, we don't really have the time, but we are committed to the principles of green building and realize that, in the end, these practices are best for our future homeowners and the earth as a whole."

To date, Primrose has well over 175 hours of extra time in educating their team and managing the process. "That's

over a month of extra man hours," says Stickle.

Another important part of the green building process is the resource efficiency category, which involves making sure you are not wasting more than you have to. For example, this particular 8500-square-foot home would typically have two dumpsters of scrap lumber removed from the job site under normal construction practices. The trick is to cut the amount of waste considerably by



HILLMON
Appliance Distributors
724-779-9393
www.HillmonAppliance.com

PENSTAN SUPPLY
A DIVISION OF HAJOCA

LARGE BATH-TUBS KOHLER MOEN

CRANBERRY INDUSTRIAL PARK
37 PROGRESS AVENUE • SUITE A • CRANBERRY, PA 16066
724.776.6790 • 1.800.783.1889 • FAX: 724.776.6830



instituting proven green-construction practices.

“When building Copper Creek lot 6,” says Stickler, “we had less than half a dumpster of scrap lumber removed from the site. In order to accomplish this, we had to create cut lists and send specific lengths of lumber out to the job site. 84 Lumber and D.J. Beam Construction were integral in helping us improve our resource efficiency during the framing stage.”



Stickler points out that all of the cabinetry in the house was custom-built by Heart of the Home Designs, located in nearby Crawford County. “During the design phase of the cabinets, Heart of the Home Designs lays cabinetry out to make sure that plywood waste is kept to a minimal amount,” he says.

Primrose Homes also tries to invest in the local economy by purchasing certain materials from local suppliers. “Our custom-built front door was purchased from Costello Door in Washington County,

Continued on next page



Pittsburgh 412-931-7767
Cranberry 724-779-7767
www.paintingbywayne.com

CRANBERRY SUPPLY

8020 Rowan Road
 Cranberry Twp., PA 16066
724-776-1610
724-776-5481


Theater Xtreme
 Home Cinema & Furnishings Store
 is Proud to Support Primrose Homes



- Custom Home Theater Systems
- Whole House Audio
- Home Automation
- Theater Seating
- Room Furnishings & Accessories

Experience The Ultimate Home Improvement!


Theater Xtreme
 Home Cinema & Furnishings Store
 20273 Rt. 19 • Cranberry Township, PA 16066
(724) 772-3131 www.txpgh.com


84 LUMBER
 Build on what we know.








HELPING TO BUILD AMERICA SINCE 1956.

For more information, visit 84lumber.com




**Professional Design
&
Construction Services**

www.blackwoodandassociates.com
724.873.1384
PA # 028709

where it was made from scratch,” says Stickle. “And the exterior trim was made by Versatex, which is located in Beaver County. This list of manufacturers within a 500-mile radius of Pittsburgh that have participated in this project goes on and on. Each of these suppliers helps us



to keep focused on being efficient with our resources.”

Watch for the next issue of *Designing HOME Lifestyles* as we see Primrose Homes complete their goal of building the area’s first NAHB Certified Gold Green home.

For more information on Primrose Homes Inc., give them a call today at (724) 816-5769 or visit them online at www.PrimroseHomesInc.com.



1076 West Lancaster Rd.
Harmony, PA 16037
724-831-6650
www.PrimroseHomesInc.com

"Five facts you need to know about our exclusive **FIBERGLASS** REPLACEMENT WINDOWS"

STRENGTH - Up to 8x stronger than vinyl and composite windows.

INSULATION - Rated the best insulator of all framing materials.

PERFORMANCE - Easy to operate and clean. Maintenance-free.

APPEARANCE - Slim Profile. Choice of colors including wood veneer.

WARRANTY - The industry's best warranties.



from **MARVIN**

**Before you settle for vinyl,
get the facts on Fiberglass!**

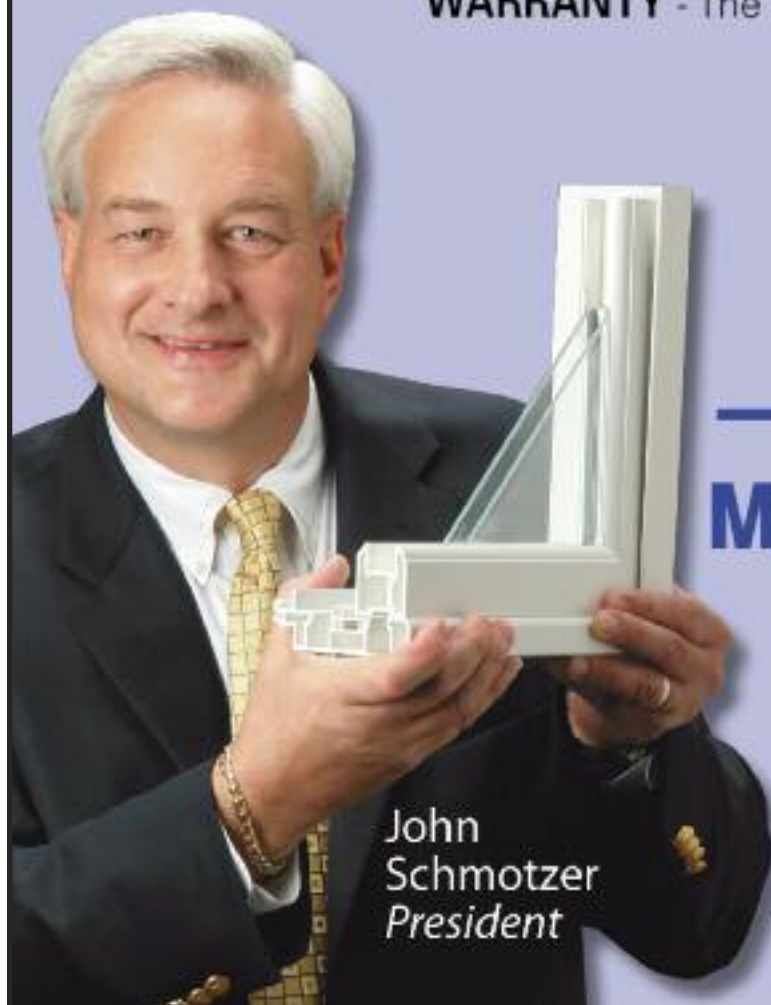

METROPOLITAN
window company

4672 Clairton Blvd.
(Rte. 51) South Hills

4590 McKnight Rd., North Hills

1-800-655-8411

www.metropolitanwindows.com



John
Schmotzer
President

NEW BOHEMIA

Introducing the second of four color trends for 2011/2012



In-Home Paint Color Consultation

Choose one of our experienced ASID Designers online at myvoiceofcolor.com/pittsburgh
\$75 consultation fee includes \$50 of free paint

THE VOICE OF COLOR

PPG PITTSBURGH PAINTS

Learn more at voiceofcolor.com



Design Time

with
Karolyn
Spagnolo

Expert Advice on the Latest Trends in Interior Design

Karolyn Spagnolo is Pittsburgh's premier interior design expert. She is also a PPG National Color & Design Consultant who's traveling North America and beyond teaching trends to architects, designers, students, and homeowners.

And here at *Designing HOME Lifestyles*, we're happy to help Karolyn share her design expertise with you.

What you should think about when you're redesigning a space, freshening-up a space, or simply trying to live with what you already have? According to Karolyn, painting is still the easiest way to get the biggest "wow" factor for the least amount of money!



SPAGNOLO
DESIGNZ

"It's time to empower yourself and embrace the new decade ahead with a brand new attitude and a fresh new hue," says Karolyn.

Choosing and Loving Color – Six tips

#1 Inspiration – When choosing a color for your space, Karolyn says you need to become inspired by color. Look, perhaps,

to an object that you know, love, and gravitate towards. Maybe it's your puppy's color. Then again, maybe it's your favorite piece of art or your favorite fabric. "Most people choose paint colors from the clothes that they wear," says Karolyn. "Look into your closet and see what you're wearing for the best inspiration."

Continued on next page



Design Time

with Karolyn Spagnolo

#2 Finding the match – Next, match those inspirations to paint chips. Of course, looking at a small paint chip will not seem as it is when you paint a wall or room. “Your mind’s eye needs to see a color in at least a 24-in. x 24-in. sample to best understand how that particular color looks in any space,” says Karolyn.

#3 PAINT + LIGHT = COLOR – Be sure to look at your square sample in the morning, afternoon, and evening to better understand how that color will look in that particular space.

#4 Put things in context – If you’re choosing paint for walls, hang the sample vertically. If it’s for the ceiling, hang the paint sample horizontally on the ceiling (anything hung upside down automatically appears darker).



This photos shows ‘Flow’ color and ceiling painted the 30%

#5 White is out – So let’s talk a little more about color. According to Karolyn, white is the first color a person sees upon entering a space. “Your eye captures the lightest part of a room,” she says, adding that, if you allow the ceiling to remain white, the first thing a person will see upon entering that room is the ceiling. “The era of the white ceiling is completely over!” she says. “Think about dressing the ceiling and including it in your overall design.” Karolyn suggests taking 20 to 30 percent of your wall color up onto the ceiling. “This will eliminate the high contrast that forms going from wall to ceiling,” she says. “By using this method, you simply soften the overall look.”

#6 “Flow Color” – Of course, too much of a good color is no longer a good color. So make sure to combine your favorite color with a neutral one. Karolyn says to use the neutral color as your “flow” color within your space. “The flow color is the one that travels through your home for openness and comfort,” she says, adding that neutral colors are eco-friendly and scream “comfort.” Choosing a main color selection in a warm neutral tone will enhance your space and actually make it appear larger.

Karolyn’s favorite PPG Pittsburgh® Paints “flow” colors:

- GAIA ATC-97
- GOLDEN ECRU 316-4
- SPICED VINEGAR 314-4

Be Dramatic

Next you’ll want to think about adding a bit of drama to your space. According to Karolyn, dining rooms, first-floor powder rooms, master suites, and Featured Architectural Designs (FADs) are the best arenas within your home to enhance it with drama. She also says that you should choose the wall that you see first when you walk into a room, if you simply want to color block one specific wall.

“Think about the main wall that you see when you enter a space,” she says. “Painting just that one wall space can set the design for the whole room. Painting your fireplace wall with a bold, dramatic color will monumentally and automatically dominate the room, recessing it and making the overall room look larger.”

Karolyn’s favorite PPG Pittsburgh® Paints “drama” colors:

- CRUSHED CINNAMON ATC-1
- THUNDERBOLT ATC-60
- CURLEW ATC-60

Define it with Trim

Finally, you’ll want to consider your trim work. Architectural trim work can transform and warm your home, and, according to Karolyn, it’s an easy, inexpensive fix. “Basically, we are all living in a big box,” she says. “Trim work defines your home and every space within it, small or large.”



White painted woodwork using MDF & wood/wow factoring FDA (Featured Architectural Design's) back wall + painted ceiling.

Karolyn says that one piece of crown molding can redefine any space in a moment; two or more pieces can elaborate on that definition of space. "It can take that drab boring space and force it to look important. It cleanly defines your space," says Karolyn. "The color you choose for your trim work should be a separate entity from the other color selections within your home. It's one of the factors that can set the overall tone of your home."

Today's trim work is made from many different materials: wood, Medium Density Fiberboard

(MDF), stone, marble, granite, onyx, etc. However, painted woodwork seems to stay at the top of the trends.

Karolyn's favorite PPG Pittsburgh® Paints trim work colors:

- MOROCCO SAND 515-3
- HORSERADISH 315-1
- NAVAJO WHITE 515-2

Again, *Designing HOME Lifestyle's* magazine couldn't be happier to have someone as talented and knowledgeable as Karolyn Spagnolo working on our team and providing our readers with top-of-the-line advice on all the latest design trends. Please join us again next issue as Karolyn gives us her unique, insider's look into the world of interior design.

To contact Karolyn, please call (412) 213-0102
www.SpagnoloDesign.com

Experience The Ultimate Home Improvement!

- Custom Home Theater Systems
- Whole House Audio
- Home Automation
- Theater Seating
- Room Furnishings & Accessories

Come Home to the Movies!™

(724) 772-3131

20273 Rt. 19 • Cranberry Township, PA 16066

DESIGN CENTER HOURS

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Monday - Saturday

www.txpgh.com

ANNA MARIE LADAVAT

Interior Artisan & Decorative Painter

I have been a decorative artist for the last 15 years. My career started as a hobby stenciler but as decorating trends have evolved so has my business. I am a faux artist trained by Faux Effects International based in Vero Beach, Fla., New York City, and Atlanta. My skills range from a simple one layer glaze, multi layer plaster effects and refinishing cabinetry.

412-901-2851



Distinctive

Innovative



Exceptional

*CopperLeaf Kitchen & Bath Design
offers only the finest in kitchen and
bath products, as well as the highest
standards in professional client services.*

CopperLeaf Kitchen & Bath Design

12982 Perry Highway • Wexford, PA 15090
(724) 935-0364 • www.copperleafdesign.com

PA022135

DHL


41



Increasing the Value of Your Property Through Landscape Design

By Pete Blackwood

When our company displays at the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show every March, without a doubt the most often asked question is, "What exactly does a design/build landscaping company do?" In an online word search, landscaping is defined as an activity to change the physical appearance of an area or piece of land. That, in very simple terms, is what we do. More specifically, we bring together multiple design elements to bring about a cohesive, interesting, and beautiful change to the physical appearance of a piece of land.



A good landscape designer, in partnership with an interested and involved property owner, can add value to a piece of land in many ways.

The second thing people want to know is how the process begins. I would suggest starting with a professional landscape design.

A good landscape designer, in partnership with an interested and involved property owner, can add value to a piece of land in many ways. Determining the location of a new home or the manner in which it is situated on the lot could be a designer's first task. What direction are the best views? At what elevation should the first floor be established to limit earthwork requirements? What trees should be saved? Where should the driveway be located, and how will the site relate to neighboring properties? Where does the sun set? Where will the owners spend their time outside? These are just a few considerations that the landscape designer must keep in mind.

Once the site is determined, the designer should address the wants and needs of the new homeowner. Is a detached garage needed for a workshop and/or storage? Would the owners like a swimming pool? If so, is there a need for a pool house structure? How would a fence relate to the pool, the new home, and any other features around the property? Should a pool deck be built with natural stone pavers or architectural concrete, and should it include space for a fire pit? Is there a slope near the pool area that would accommodate a waterfall that would flow into the pool? Is a sport court something the family would use? Is a large flat lawn area needed for tossing a football? Would an outdoor kitchen be practical? Could it be located in such a way so it could service the home and the pool area? What appliances would be required?

Will there be drainage issues with which to deal? Positive slope away from a new building is very important. Runoff, either on to or off of a piece of land, will need to be reviewed. Many local communities also require engineering drawings to define how storm water will be addressed.

Is there anything nearby the property that would require screening, like a commercial building or parking lot? If so, will a privacy fence be required or can evergreen trees accomplish the task?

Are there slopes on the property that may require a retaining wall? If so, should the wall be built with an element used in the construction of the house, such as brick, stone, large boulders, or a precast concrete segmented wall?

Is there topsoil on site, and how good is it? Upon inspection, if there seems to be significant clay content, off-site topsoil may be required.

What types of plantings would interest the owner? Would they like formal or more naturalized plantings? The significance of the local deer population, exposure, and adaptability are important issues to consider when choosing plant varieties.

Seasonal color is a significant consideration, too. Bulbs are a great way to achieve early spring color. Rhododendron, azaleas, viburnum, crabapple, dogwood, and redbud offer

beautiful mid- and late-spring color, and annuals and perennials will create interest all summer long.

Are large containers something to consider for seasonal color? The selection of large, decorative containers available today is unbelievable. What about fall color? The red maple, viburnum, dogwoods, and many fall perennials make this my favorite time of the year. Selecting hardy evergreen trees and shrubs is also important for winter interest. Let's not forget the many choices of ground covers, such as vinca minor, pachysandra, and

Continued on next page



Once the site is determined, the designer should address the wants and needs of the new homeowner.

it is time to develop a comprehensive master plan for the property. This is when the value of the design becomes most evident. It is a roadmap to developing the plan either all at once or in phases. It also becomes the basis for development of a budget.

A master plan is a scaled, labeled drawing that will define quantities, sizes, types, and timing of the finished product. Building a swimming pool, for example, is a disruptive process that should be one of the first projects to address. A water feature, pool house, retaining wall, or tree planting can be equally disruptive to a site and should receive early consideration in a phased project. The timing of the master plan is very important. Seldom is enough thought put into it before construction begins. Typically this mistake results in a lack of funding from mortgage companies for most of the landscape features not relating directly to the house construction.

In the next issue, we will address the implementation of the master plan.

sweet woodruff for those shady places, and purple-leaf winter creeper and ajuga for something more interesting than mulch beds.

Another issue to consider is landscape lighting. Questions such as the existing level of street lighting, the number of exterior light fixtures included in the construction of the house, and general lighting of the elements in the yard should be addressed.

wooded property, the large trees will rob the soil of nearly all available moisture during the dry seasons of July, August, and September. Irrigation can be the only source of water for lawn and plantings at that time and should definitely be included in the design process.

Let's assume the designer has gathered enough information to develop a conceptual landscape plan. After reviewing the plan with the homeowner and making the required changes,

Up-lighting of major trees, architectural features of the house, and water features, retaining walls, pool houses, and sculptures is very important to consider. Pathway lighting is important for safety reasons around driveways, walkways, patios, and pool decks.

Irrigation is also an important part of the landscape designer's concept. On a heavily



Pittsburgh's Most Spectacular Flooring Store

MARBLE ★ GRANITE ★ SLATE ★ LIMESTONE ★ CARPET ★ HARDWOOD ★ TILE
LAMINATE ★ AREA RUGS ★ VINYL
PROFESSIONAL CUSTOM DESIGN & INSTALLATION



Discover a new way to shop for floors!



Paracca
INTERIORS
FlooringAmerica.

724-586-7777

www.ParaccaInteriors.com

Exclusively on Route 8
1000 Pittsburgh Road | Valencia
Just 8 Miles North of Turnpike Exit 39
Across from H.P. Starr Lumber

Mon-Wed-Fri 9-5; Tues-Thurs 9-8; Sat 9-2



SPRING LIFESTYLES

Photos by S. Rick Armstrong, courtesy of Neighbors In the Strip





Neighbors

in the STRIP

PITTSBURGH'S HISTORIC MARKET DISTRICT

Just northeast of downtown Pittsburgh, you'll find the Strip District, aka "The Strip." Although small in size (0.5 square miles) The Strip has plenty to offer and is the perfect destination for a day of family fun.

If you traveled back in time to the 1800s, you'd find The Strip teeming with industry. In fact, famed industrialists Andrew Carnegie and George Westinghouse found their fortunes here. Today it's known for its retail produce and ethnic food stores, as well as its restaurants, nightlife, and cultural amenities.

The seven-story Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center on Smallman Street celebrates the city's proud and rich heritage.

Piruet over to Liberty Avenue, and you'll find the accomplished Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre.

Looking for a bite to eat? The Strip offers everything from fine Italian cuisine to fresh seafood.

The Strip is also home to Pittsburgh staples, such as the iconic Pennsylvania Macaroni Company (aka, Penn Mac) Wholey's (pronounced "WOOL-lees") fish market, Pamela's P&G Diner (heavenly hotcakes), the Smallman Street Deli, and, of course, the legendary Primanti Brothers.





Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

CULTURAL EVENTS

What Else To Do?

Take in a show, dine with family and friends, it's all about enjoying the culture in one of America's true great cities – Pittsburgh, PA!

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra – Heinz Hall

600 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 392-4900
www.pittsburghsymphony.org

Marvin Does Marvin
March 10 – 13, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



"Tribute" Concert: A Symphonic Celebration of African American Culture
March 18, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Fiddlesticks – You Are the Composer!
March 19, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



Scheherazade
March 25 and 27, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Schumann, Liszt & Strauss
April 1 and 3, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Urban Rocks
April 2, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Ohlsson Plays Brahms
April 7 – 9, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



Disney in Concert
April 14 – 17, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Wynonna Judd with Marvin and the PSO
April 28, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



Lewis Black: In God We Rust
April 30, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Storybook Favorites
May 6 and 8, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



Honeck, Grimaud & Mozart
May 13 – 14, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall

Honeck & Mahler's Legacy
May 20 – 22, 2011
Location: Heinz Hall



Pittsburgh Public Theater

621 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 316-8200 – Box Office (412) 316-1600
www.ppt.org

Circle Mirror Transformation
March 3 – April 3, 2011

Superior Donuts
April 14 – May 15, 2011

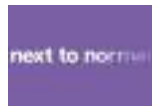
God of Carnage
May 26 – June 26, 2011

FEATURE SHOWS AND EVENTS

Shrek the Musical
March 15 – 20, 2011
Presented by: PNC Broadway Across America – Pittsburgh
Venue: Benedum Center



Next to Normal
April 5 – 10, 2011
Presented by: PNC Broadway Across America – Pittsburgh
Venue: Benedum Center



West Side Story
May 17 – 22, 2011
Presented by: PNC Broadway Across America – Pittsburgh
Venue: Benedum Center



Mamma Mia!
April 19 – 24, 2011
Presented by: PNC Broadway Across America – Pittsburgh
Venue: Benedum Center



David Dorfman Dance
April 30, 2011
Presented by: Pittsburgh Dance Council
Venue: Byham Theater



Pittsburgh CLO

719 Liberty Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 281-3973 • www.pittsburghCLO.org

The Marvelous Wonderettes
April 28 – October 2, 2011
CLO Cabaret

9 to 5: The Musical
May 31 – June 5, 2011
The Benedum Center





The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra

Pittsburgh Playhouse at Point Park University

222 Craft Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15231
(412) 621-4445 • www.pointpark.edu

Evita

March 4 – 6 and March 17 – 20, 2011
Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

Mercy and the Firefly

April 1 – 17, 2011
Studio Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

Faculty Worx

April 15 – 17, 2011
Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

Peter and the Wolf

Weekends, May 14 – 29, 2011
Rockwell Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

Pittsburgh's Mr. Aviation!

Weekends, May 14 – 29, 2011
Studio Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

Diary of Anne Frank

May 27 – June 12, 2011
Rauh Theatre, Pittsburgh Playhouse

JazzLive!

Presented by: Trust Education and Community Engagement Department.

JazzLive is a year-round FREE live jazz series taking place at The Cabaret at Theater Square, Backstage Bar and Katz Plaza.* Open to the public, this popular Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

music series showcases some of the region's finest jazz musicians every Tuesday from 5pm-11pm in the heart of the Cultural District.

**From September to May, all performances take place in the Backstage Bar. In the summer, live jazz moves outdoors to Katz Plaza from 5pm-7pm and in the Backstage Bar from 7pm-10pm.*

Al Dowe and Etta Cox

March 15, 2011
Venue: Katz Plaza

Maureen Budway

March 15, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Roger Humphries / RH Factor

March 22, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Kenia

March 22, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Tony DePaolis

March 29, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Thoth Trio

April 5, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Benny Benack III & Friends:

The Next Big Thing
April 5, 2011
Venue: Cabaret at Theater Square

Karrin Allyson

April 26, 2011
Venue: Cabaret at Theater Square

Michele Bensen

May 3, 2011
Venue: Cabaret at Theater Square

Don Aliquo

May 3, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square



The Spring Lifestyles Section of Designing HOME Lifestyles Magazine is dedicated to promoting the growth and development of Cultural and Tourism related businesses in Western Pennsylvania. Please contact us at info@DesigningHomeLifestyles.com for information on how to participate in future editions. Dates and pertinent information of events are subject to change. Please contact each organization directly to confirm all dates, times and availability. The included events are only a portion of cultural events in Western Pennsylvania. For additional information and other events try visiting The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust at www.pgharts.org.

Tony Campbell

May 10, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Dwayne Dolphin

May 17, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Alton Merrell

May 17, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Carolyn Perteete

May 31, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

Shawnee Lake

May 31, 2011
Venue: Backstage Bar at Theater Square

DINING OUT AROUND PITTSBURGH

CITY GRILL

2019 E. Carson St., South Side
Pittsburgh, PA 15203 (412) 431-1770
www.citygrillpgh.com

HOULIHAN'S

Galleria of Mt. Lebanon (412) 379-4811
Station Square (412) 232-0302
Mall at Robinson (412) 787-7050
Monroeville Mall (412) 373-8520
www.Houlihans.com

JACKSONS RESTAURANT – ROTISSERIE – BAR

Southpointe – 1000 Corporate Drive,
(724) 743-5005
www.ExperienceJacksons.com

JACKSONS RESTAURANT – ROTISSERIE – BAR

Moon Township – 8402 University Blvd.
(412) 329-1405
www.ExperienceJacksons.com

MITCHELL'S FISH MARKET

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT & BAR
The Waterfront – (412) 476-8844
Mt. Lebanon at the Galleria
(412) 571-3474
www.MitchellsFishMarket.com

SAGA HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE

Monroeville (412) 372-8888
Settlers Ridge Robinson (412) 788-8868
Oak Tree Place Cranberry (724) 778-1888
www.SagaHibachi.com



Andy Warhol Museum



Find us on:
facebook®

Designing
HOME
Lifestyles

Find us on Facebook to discover more scoop!

Get online with us today for home remodeling advice, suggestions on products and materials to make your house a home, places to shop, recipes, dining suggestions and a whole lot more.



*Get Connected...
have your voice
heard and be a
part of what
we do today!*




Designing Home Lifestyles Magazine



OUR FAVORITE STRAWBERRY RECIPES

By Tom Poljak



It is hard to find someone who doesn't enjoy strawberries, especially a Chocolate Covered Strawberry. After noticing a popular website offering one-half dozen Chocolate Covered Strawberries for \$39.95, the answer was simple while deciding what type of food to feature this issue.

This super fruit is a wonderful source of nutrients and good health. A strawberry is a superstar when it comes to anti-oxidant power, says Dr. Barry Sears in his book *The Top 100 Zone Foods*. One cup of strawberries gives you 140 percent of your recommended daily allowance of vitamin C. Research has shown that strawberries also help keep "bad" cholesterol from oxidizing and damaging artery walls. There are studies that state strawberries assist in making cancer-causing chemicals inactive and aid in disease prevention.

The best thing about strawberries might be that everyone, especially kids, enjoy eating strawberries. Having kids excited about eating something healthy is virtually impossible. Add some chocolate to one of the safest and healthiest fruits in the world and you've got yourself a winner for kids and adults alike.

Continued on next page

RECIPES

CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES

Chocolate Covered Strawberries might be the easiest and classiest dessert you can offer your friends and family. This dessert pairs perfectly with a nice Pinot Noir or as a romantic choice to accompany your favorite champagne. Once you've tried making Chocolate Covered Strawberries for yourself, you'll never buy them again!

24-30 Strawberries - (Fresh and Perfect with Stems Intact)
6 ounces Semisweet Chocolate Chips - (Best You Can Find)

If refrigerated, bring strawberries to room temperature, wash strawberries well and make sure they are completely dry before dipping. Water is an enemy to your chocolate. If water comes in contact with your chocolate it will turn grainy and lose its smoothness.

Next line a sheet tray with waxed paper and prepare all of your garnishes (coatings) for the strawberries. You can use your imagination and what you like. Try using toasted coconut, chopped nuts, finely chopped pistachios, jimmies or drizzle with white chocolate for a nice garnish. And believe it or not...you are almost done!

METHODS OF MELTING CHOCOLATE:

Double Boiler:

Put a few inches of water in the bottom of the double boiler and place on top of a medium flame. You want your water hot, but not boiling. Make sure the water is not touching the bottom of your top pan. Add chocolate chips into the top dry container of your double boiler. Stir occasionally with a wooden spoon. If you don't have a double boiler you can use a pot with a stainless steel or glass bowl on top. It will work just as well! Once the chocolate is melted, remove from the heat and let slightly cool. Make sure the chocolate doesn't set, or get firm.

Microwave:

In a microwave-safe bowl, melt chocolate chips using either the defrost setting or lowest power in the microwave.

Microwave for 1 minute, then check and stir. If more time is required, microwave for another 15-20 seconds and stir again. Continue the process until the chocolate has a smooth consistency. The chips might not look melted, but will continue to melt and become fluid as you stir with a wooden spoon.

HOW TO DIP STRAWBERRIES IN CHOCOLATE

The best method is to simply hold the stem and green leaves and dip directly into the melted chocolate. Give the strawberry a swirl and a little shake to make sure the chocolate doesn't have any tiny air bubbles.

When the strawberry is lifted from the chocolate give shake it again to remove any excess chocolate and give it a clockwise twist. This will give you a uniform coating without overflow on the bottom of the strawberry when you place it on the wax paper.

If working in a warm area, try to refrigerate as soon as possible so the chocolate can harden. Let set for thirty minutes, sometimes less and they are ready for service. For best results eat the Chocolate Covered Strawberries within the first 48-hours. Enjoy!

DHL'S STRAWBERRY SOUP

2 cups Strawberries (Fresh and Hulled)
1 cup Half & Half
1 cup Heavy Cream
1/2 cup Sour Cream
1/2 cup Vanilla Yogurt
1/2 cup White Wine (Riesling or a Gewurztraminer)
2 ounces Chambord
2 tablespoons Honey
4 ounces Simple Syrup (2 oz Sugar and 2 oz Water) Boil and Cool
4 each Mint Leaves (Used as Garnish - if Desired)
1/2 ounce Whipped Cream (Used as a Garnish - if Desired)

1. In a blender, puree all ingredients starting with the strawberries. Hold off adding the simple syrup until last. You can adjust the sweetness to your individual preference.
2. Chill in a refrigerator for at least 8 hours or overnight before serving.
3. Garnish with a dollop of whipped cream, a thin slice of strawberry and mint leaf. Enjoy!

STRAWBERRY SALSA

1 cup Strawberries (Hulled and Small Dice)
 1/2 cup Kiwi (Skin Removed and Small Dice)
 1/2 cup Cucumber (Skin and Seeds Removed
 Very Small Dice)
 1 tablespoon Honey
 1 teaspoon Vanilla (Mexican)
 2 teaspoons Lime Juice (Fresh Squeezed)

1/2 teaspoon Cinnamon (Ground)
 1/4 teaspoon Ginger (Ground)

Cinnamon Tortilla Chips

2 tablespoons Sugar
 1 teaspoon Cinnamon Ground
 6 each Flour Tortillas (6-inch)

1. For the Salsa, gently mix all ingredients in a medium bowl until all ingredients are well blended.
2. Refrigerate and let set for at least one half hour.
3. For the Chips, preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Lightly spray both sides of your tortillas with a butter flavored non-stick cooking spray.
4. Sprinkle each whole tortilla with your cinnamon/sugar mixture. Once the tortillas are nicely coated, cut them into 8 even wedges.
5. Bake 8-12 minutes, or until the tortillas are crisp. Allow to cool and reserve until needed for service. Enjoy!



STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH BLEU CHEESE AND PECANS

4-6 cups Spinach (Fresh, Stems Removed and Washed)
 1 pint Strawberries (Washed, Hulled and Sliced)
 2 ounces Pecans (Roasted and Chopped)
 2 ounces Bleu Cheese Crumbles
 2 ounces Red Onion (Sliced Very Thin)

Dressing

1 tablespoon Dijon Mustard
 1/4 cup Sugar (White Granulated)
 3 tablespoons Shallots (Chopped Finely)
 2 tablespoons Poppy Seed
 2/3 cup Red Wine Vinegar
 2 cups Olive Oil
 To Taste Salt and Black Pepper

1. Place Spinach, Strawberries, Pecans, Bleu Cheese and Red Onion in a bowl and reserve until needed for service.
2. In a blender, place Mustard, Sugar, Shallots, Vinegar in a blender. Add the Olive Oil slowly until all is incorporated. Stir in the Poppy Seed, and adjust the seasoning with Salt and Pepper if needed.
3. Pour dressing over salad to serve family style or on individual plates. Enjoy!



FORMER STEELER AND DECORATED VETERAN, ROCKY BLEIER TO BE THIS YEAR'S HANCE AWARD RECIPIENT

St. Barnabas to honor Rocky Bleier at annual Founder's Day celebration

PITTSBURGH, PA (February 21, 2011) – It's only fitting that St. Barnabas has chosen Rocky Bleier to honor with their prestigious Hance Award. Undersized by NFL standards, a 16th-round draft pick, and wounded war veteran, Rocky Bleier had very little going for him when he joined the Pittsburgh Steelers in 1970 on their injured reserve corps-except for a will to succeed.

Bleier's "fighting back" spirit was forged in the working class community of Appleton, Wisconsin, where he grew up, on the football field at Notre Dame where he played on the 1966 National Championship team, in the rice paddies of Vietnam where he was seriously wounded, and in the hospital in Tokyo where doctors told him he would never play football again.

The Purple Heart and Bronze Star medal winner worked tirelessly for two years to gain a position on the team and become the Steelers starting running back, earning four Super Bowl rings along the way and racking up 3,865 yards over 12 seasons. Although all the aforementioned accomplishments are impressive, Bleier, one of Pittsburgh's most beloved adopted sons, is now a successful entrepreneur, motivational



*Rocky Bleier
Hance Award Recipient
and Guest Speaker
Founder's Day 2011*




speaker and philanthropist, which is why St. Barnabas is honoring him with the 2011 Hance Award.

The Hance Award is presented annually to a national figure that has had a significant impact on the lives of Americans. The award is named for Brother Gouverneur P. Hance (1871-1954), who founded St. Barnabas in 1900 as a place to provide care to those in need regardless of their ability to pay.

Bleier has been a long-time participant and supporter of St. Barnabas' PRESENTS FOR PATIENTS® Christmas program that matches residents of nursing homes, assisted living centers and personal care homes with a member of the community who personally delivers a gift. Bleier has participated for the past six years by adopting a resident and personally delivering a gift.

Rocky Bleier will be presented with the Hance Award at the annual Founder's Day celebration on April 28 at the Omni William Penn Hotel in Pittsburgh. The Black n' Gold Charity "Ball" begins at 5:30 p.m. with a tailgate styled reception and silent auction. Dinner and program commences at 7 p.m. For tickets please call (724) 443-0700, ext 5258 or visit www.stbarnabashealthsystem.com.

EST.  1998

MITCHELL'S FISH MARKETSM

SEAFOOD RESTAURANT & BAR

FISH ANY FRESHER
WOULD STILL BE IN THE OCEAN.®

THE WATERFRONT 412.476.8844
MT. LEBANON AT THE GALLERIA 412.571.3474
www.MitchellsFishMarket.com

\$10 PTING

FILET MIGNON SMALL PLATE



Just one of over
30 small plates
starting at \$3

H
HOULIHAN'S

1500 Washington Rd | Pittsburgh, PA
412.379.4811 | houlihans.com

HIT YOUR TARGET MARKET

Designing HOME Lifestyles

For Advertising Information Call
412.819.5152



BEST HIBACHI STEAKHOUSE & SUSHI IN TOWN!

Home-Side Cooking • Dine In • Take-Out • Catering And Private Parties Welcome • Japanese Cuisine & Full-Service Bar

High-Definition Sushi

- Carryout Available
- Private Party Rooms For 10-100 People

Cooks Right In Front of Your Eyes. Entertaining Dining Experience!

LUNCH: Mon-Fri 11am-3pm
Dinner: Mon-Thurs 3pm-10pm
Fri 3pm-11pm
Sat-Sun 12pm-11pm
Gift Certificates Available

<p>Wentzville Mall 412-372-8888 745 Mall Creek Dr. Behind Barnes & Noble</p>	<p>Settlers Ridge - Robinson 412-788-8868 1040 Settlers Ridge Center Dr. Ridge Rd. Exit off Pkwy West</p>	<p>Oak Tree Place - Cranberry 724-778-1888 20008 Rt. 19 Oak Tree Place</p>
---	--	---

www.SagaHibachi.com

Book Your Hibachi Birthday Party Today at SAGA. Call Today for Reservations.

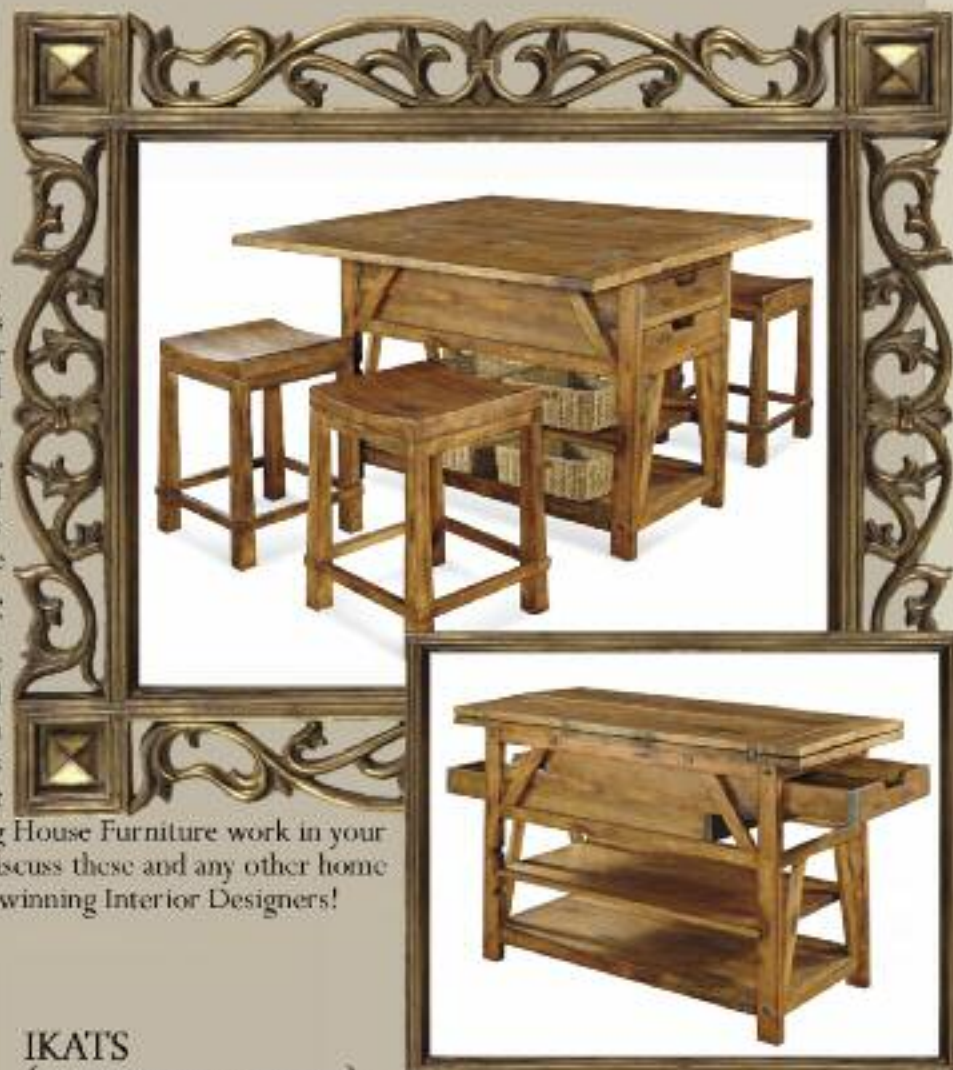


What's Hot

NOTE TO OUR READERS: For this issue of What's Hot in Interior Design we went straight to the top! We spoke directly with representatives from some of the design industry's major vendors on both sides of the business - furnishings and fabrics. We were glad to know that our finger was right on the pulse of what's hot in interior design! In speaking with these folks they had some great insight that they wanted us to share with our readers.

NEW TO THE PITTSBURGH AREA AND EXCLUSIVELY AT THE BLIND SIDE HOME FURNISHINGS - TURNING HOUSE FURNITURE

Turning House Furniture uses reclaimed, aged beams and flooring from old buildings that are rich in history, but beyond repair or restoration. They transform this beautiful timber into environmentally conscious, solid wood creations of the highest quality. Turning House preserves the integrity and spirit of the wood's history to showcase its distinct character. The company brings these buildings, and the rich history they contain, back into people's lives in the form of beautifully made furniture, keeping the stories of these once proud buildings and businesses alive. The counter island shown here will be arriving at The Blind Side this spring and will be featured in our East Railroad Avenue showroom. Can Turning House Furniture work in your home? Call or visit our showroom and discuss these and any other home interior questions with one of our award-winning Interior Designers!



IKATS (PRONOUNCED EE-KATS)

One of the country's premiere fabric lines can't get enough yards of this pattern fast enough to keep up with demand! Ikat patterns are more than 1,000 years old and have been reinvented through the use of bright colors. The word "ikat" means "to bind" and is a very ancient way of creating designs in fabric by resist-dyeing the threads before the fabric is woven. These patterns make a seamless transition paired with today's casual lifestyle and furnishings.

What's In

"GREIGE" - WARM GRAY IS THE NEW NEUTRAL!

As seen in both fashion and home furnishings, warm gray tones are being considered the newest neutral shade. The gray palette we are seeing is using warm tones (not the steely, cold grays of the past) and pairing them with brights (red, yellow, purple, chartreuse). Gray is the go-to color turning heads in the design industry!

(Paint colors by Benjamin Moore, fabrics by Kravet and Lee Jofa)



THREE CHEERS FOR THE HOME FURNISHINGS INDUSTRY!

In speaking with some of the nation's largest furniture and fabric manufacturers, one comment resonated from vendor to vendor. They would like consumers to be aware and to appreciate the fact that today we all enjoy a multitude of choices for products that excel in craftsmanship and are the heart and soul of many businesses in this industry, and in this country. Today, we have countless options for every possible aspect of our homes that generations before us would have never dreamed possible.

751-753 E. RAILROAD AVE
VERONA, PA 15147
PHONE: 412-862-1850
FAX: 412-862-8698
WWW.THEBLINDSIDE.COM
INFO@THEBLINDSIDE.COM
MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM
SATURDAY 10AM-3PM



RON DONOUGHE



Ron Donoughe takes to the streets and highways of western Pennsylvania – along with the region’s hillsides, forests, state parks, and a variety of other locales – to practice his craft.

The Lawrenceville-based artist uses a plein-air style, painting outdoors to capture landscapes ranging from city blocks to rural countrysides in their natural light. The approach blends a few of his interests.

“I loved nature, and I loved art,” says Donoughe, “and it seemed like a good way to combine the two.”

Donoughe finds a number of advantages to the plein-air style. “It’s a very direct and honest approach to painting the landscape,” he says, adding that the colors are three-dimensional and the lighting and shadows change across the distance. “It gives a spirit of place that you don’t get from working from a photo.”



Above: Linn Run, Ligonier

On the other hand, outdoor painting has its drawbacks, too.

“The most obvious challenge is the weather conditions,” Donoughe says. Extreme temperatures won’t keep Donoughe from painting outdoors, but precipitation becomes a problem because oil paint will not adhere to the canvas.

In fact, while many Pittsburghers hunker down indoors during the cold-weather months, Donoughe gets a chance to paint his favorite subjects: winter landscapes. “It reflects light in a very subtle way,” Donoughe says. He also appreciates how the white blanket of snow gives paintings an opposite effect of many other landscapes, concentrating the lightest value on the land, not the sky.

In painting outdoors, Donoughe must also work efficiently. He only has a window of two or three hours before the lighting changes significantly enough to alter the landscape. These time constraints tend to limit the size of his on-site paintings, which typically have the dimensions of a laptop computer screen, although Donoughe has completed as big as a 4-foot-by-8-foot painting outdoors. If he likes the smaller image, he’ll replicate it on a larger canvas.

“These little ones are my dailies,” he says, comparing them to an athlete’s calisthenics or a musician’s scales. “It’s what I do every day to keep me in tune.” The larger replications can be striking, though, emphasizing the interplay of light and shadows and magnifying the richness of the colors.

Below: Wightman Light



More recently, Donoughe has turned his attention to working from vintage photos. He has done a number of paintings of early 20th century industrial settings. The knowledge of light and shadow he’s gained from 25 years of outdoor painting translates to more authentic work, especially when working from an old photo. Donoughe says that it helps him make a photo his own.

In addition to his work in Western Pennsylvania, Donoughe often paints on the west coast where his twin brother, Don lives. He has an ongoing relationship with a gallery there that sells his San Francisco paintings.

Last year Donoughe had a joint exhibition with Don at their alma mater, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, and his work is included in the permanent collection at the museum there. Donoughe’s work is also featured in collections of the Westmoreland Museum of American Art and the Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art.

Donoughe, a native of Loretto, knew early on that he was destined for a career in art. “This was my passion since first grade,”



Above: *Early Evening Light* Below: *Pittsburgh Winter*



he says. “All of my school notebooks were full of drawings.”

Before he was able to focus fully on his painting, Donoughe’s career took a more conventional route. He majored in art education and later worked as a graphic designer until he went full-time as a painter in 1991. Even then, he maintained a variety of part-time gigs, even though they took his attention away from his true passion. “All the other jobs just seemed like a distraction,” Donoughe says.

As the audience for his work grew, he became less and less reliant on those

part-time gigs for financial stability. A few years ago, he was able to give them up entirely.

Donoughe says that Pittsburgh is an attractive environment for full-time artists, in part due to its low cost of living. The region’s topography is appealing, as well. “Every time you turn another corner, you have a new vista,” Donoughe says.

Donoughe adds that the sense of community among Pittsburgh artists is also a plus. “There’s a camaraderie I feel with other artists, especially landscape artists,” he says.

Donoughe’s western Pennsylvania roots earned him a special honor this year. The curator of the Pennsylvania Governor’s Residence in Harrisburg has invited Donoughe and another Pittsburgh artist, Patrick Ruane, to exhibit their work together. The exhibition, *Across the Alleghenies*, will showcase Allegheny County because the newly-elected Governor is a Shaler native.

More information about Ron Donoughe is available at www.donoughe.com. His website includes a link to his blog, where he posts a new painting every week and encourages readers to provide feedback. ▼



Crooked Creek



Lawrenceville Red

focus on custom home builders:
PRIMROSE HOMES, INC.



2010 Builders Association of Metropolitan Pittsburgh Home of the Year



An Eye for DETAIL

By Tom Poljak

If you've read our magazine in the past, you're familiar with the quality work of Primrose Homes Inc. In recent issues we have featured the progress of their incredible green-certified home project, and on pages 34-38 in this issue, you'll find is the third installment of our four-part series on the progression of this ambitious and important project.

Primrose Homes has always been on the cutting edge of home-building in this region. Over the years they have built a strong reputation and are continuously being sought-after by people who want only the finest in quality construction.

Continued on next page





The custom-built cabinetry in this house was provided by Heat of the Home Designs. www.heartofthomedesigns.com



You may have heard this story before, but even if you have, it is well worth reading again. Owner Jeff Martin actually got into building homes by accident. He started out helping a friend work on a new home because they were out of room and needed a larger house. His friend's family actually lived with Martin during the last 4-5 months of the project, because they had sold their old house before the new one was completed.

"We'd work on the house a few nights a week and on weekends," says Martin. "I simply fell in love with the building process and helping friends."

After helping his friends, Jeff and his wife, Margaret, decided to build a new



home of their own. Two years after the completion of that home, they decided to do it all over again. Despite mild objections from Margaret, they started building and actually never moved into that new home. As it turns out, someone else wanted to buy it. Thus, Primrose Homes Inc. was created.

So what is it, exactly, that makes Primrose so special? For one, you'll find a passion within their employees that you just won't find anywhere else. At Primrose, it is more than just pride; they actually enjoy making people happy. And that is why they offer such value in each and every home they build. You'll definitely feel comfortable when you



This home came with a fully-equipped theater that came from TheaterXtreme located in Cranberry Township.



work with this incredibly talented builder.

"I love building homes in western PA for a couple of reasons," says Martin. "First, it gives me great pleasure to watch a family turn the house we build into a home—a place where they can host their friends and family, and where they can create memories.

"Second," he says, "I love the ability to be creative; to try new construction techniques and trim details; to tweak a floor plan so it flows just right; to envision how furniture might be placed so we can right-size the rooms; and to provide new and interesting amenities within the client's budget constraints."

Continued on next page



Intricate molding and built-ins come standard in all homes built by Primrose Homes.





One of the things that makes Primrose so special is its people. Like any well-constructed home, it all starts with a solid foundation. And at Primrose they have a solid foundation of committed, caring employees who love their jobs and will bend over backwards to help you build the home of your dreams.

Operations Manager Adam Stickle is just one dedicated member of the Primrose family. He joined Primrose Homes in 2007 to help manage operations as the company grew in size.

“A lot of contractors talk about personal service and undivided attention,” says Stickle. “But a lot of times that’s all it is—talk. Not here. At Primrose we truly love what we do; it’s our passion. To us this is more than just a job. We really do take joy in making sure that you’re completely satisfied, not with just the final product, but with the entire process along the way. It’s just how we do business.”

Another one of Primrose’s finest is the company’s newest team member, Project Manager Benaiah Tucci. Tucci joined

Primrose in the summer of 2010 after graduating from Penn State, and has a real passion for being out in the field and managing things hands on.

“I love what I do,” says Tucci. “I love interacting with the clients and finding out new ways to meet their needs and desires. Before you can build the perfect home, you have to build a solid relationship with the client so that you can really understand their vision. Then, throughout the entire building process, you have to continue to listen to and learn from them, so that you can address their concerns properly and, in the end, give them the home they’ve always wanted.”

Primrose Homes strives for excellence each and every day. Let them build a home inspired by your dreams. ▽



Primrose Homes, Inc.
1076 West Lancaster Rd., Harmony, Pa 16037
724-816-5769
www.PrimroseHomesInc.com



Professional Design and Construction Services

Custom Homes • Renovations • Additions • Kitchens • Basements • Outdoor Living



Interior Design



Waterfeatures



Outdoor Kitchens

www.blackwoodandassociates.com

724.873.1384



The City Grill was founded in 1988, one of a few new, hip neighborhood restaurants to be established in the newly gentrified South Side Flats. Presenting simple fare, the best ingredients, all cooked to order by owner and chef Paul Rosato and his line cooks, City Grill has garnered a great family of regulars, both old-time city residents as well as a diverse, younger crowd looking for a delicious simple a la carte menu inspired by Mediterranean and American cuisine.

Famous for its choice burger and grill selection, City Grill's cooks work over a wood-fired grill, and Chef Rosato personally runs the sauté station with fresh pasta dishes inspired by his parent's Abruzzi heritage.

The menu is kept simple so the food can stand out. Ingredients are picked to offer diners excellent quality at the best prices year round. Full bar is available, and sidewalk cafe tables are available throughout the spring and summer.

Nothing quite like a bottle of wine, good food and great friends at the City Grill in the Southside of Pittsburgh! Salute!

Juice Banger Tempranillo Garnacha - 2008

Juice banger: (noun) an intensely flavored and extremely drinkable wine.

This wine screams fun and that is why it is offered at the City Grill. This wine is made from Tempranillo and Garnacha grapes. That is what makes this wine a true juice banger; intense cherry and plum fruit with a hint of savory spices. This wine matches many items on the City Grill menu.





City Grill



Bel Arbor Merlot 2008

This wine showcases some of California's finest growing regions. This Merlot and the other wines produced by Bel Arbor are crafted for casual relaxation and easy enjoyment.

This soft, smooth Merlot offers cherry and berry flavors with a touch of cocoa and mint. It is a fine companion to pastas with tomato sauce and grill meats. It is great for sipping or with your favorite burger at the City Grill.

Paired With: City Grill's Fresh Angus Burger Grilled on Cherry Wood



wine

Copper Ridge Chardonnay

While dining at the City Grill you'll find many wonderful red wines to complement your meat or red sauce dishes. The owner suggests Copper Ridge to complement lighter chicken and veal dishes.

This soft and appealing wine has aromas of apple and peach. It has a smooth creamy buttery flavor from the oak that gives the wine its body and length on the finish. This medium-bodied wine is both crisp and refreshing.

Paired With: City Grill's Fettuccine Primavera in Light Cream Sauce

Conquista Malbec - 2010

Conquista (Conquest) is an interesting wine. The aroma will give you a blackberry and strawberry mix that combines in your nose. You'll also notice a hint of refreshing peppermint.

The flavor is of sweet and spiced red plum with black cherry and hints of other berries with a slight hint of vanilla. This wine pairs well with grilled meat and has a big nice long finish. With this winery situated at the foothills of the Andes and fed by the purest water from melted snow, the vineyard produces grapes of outstanding quality. It is made to enjoy while relaxing with friends and family. The silky texture should "Conquista" you at the City Grill.

Paired With: City Grill's Ribeye with Mushroom Risotto



City Grill

2019 CARSON STREET
PITTSBURGH, PA 15203

WWW.CITYGRILLPGH.COM

412-431-1770

DHL's

pet Lifestyles

By Renee Butor



caring for your senior dog

As your dog ages, his daily needs will change as well, and will depend even more on his beloved owner to ease him into his golden years. Here is some helpful advice to keep him at his most comfortable.

Sometimes until we see our furry friend having difficulties going up steps, or leaving wet spots on our carpet, is when we come to the realization – our puppies grow old just like we do. Usually, and sadly so, dog owners will live to see their dogs pass on before they do.

One dog year approximately equates to 7 human years, so by the time your dog reaches the age of ten, he's actually lived the life of an average 70 year old senior citizen.

Dogs experience many age related illnesses and aches, just as humans do, so by taking steps to make his or her environment as comfortable and welcoming as possible, we

can help our pets age gracefully. Though your first contact of advice should always be your veterinarian, here are some resources to help you make your pet's golden years truly shine.

Mobility

There are certain leashes that actually help shift your dog's weight away from their hind legs to provide support while walking. Harnesses are also available for aiding the mid section region. These

leashes can be located at your local specialty pet store or by a quick online search. If your pet has trouble jumping up to sit by you on the bed or sofa, pet stairs can be of great help. These are usually carpeted to





provide needed stability while walking and are very lightweight for storage and maneuvering.

Vehicle transportation can also be a challenge for an elderly dog. A pet ramp is an indispensable tool to help your pet get safely in and out of a vehicle. There are many suppliers who offer various styles and sizes depending on your car model.

Sleeping

Though fluffy beds look nice and cozy, a firmer bed actually can be easier for your senior pet to get in and out of and are supportive of sore bones. Search for a well made quality bed your dog can get comfortable in.

Incontinence

Often times, older pet's bladders weaken and this causes them to leak urine, especially while sleeping due to their relaxed muscles. Sometimes veterinarians will suggest an estrogen supplement for a female dog, or another option are "panty" style diapers or belly bands that are available in disposable versions. Taking your pet outside more frequently will also help in this matter.

Medication

The older your dog gets, he will probably have to take medication more frequently. Pill pockets are an extremely helpful tool for getting meds down your dog's throat. They are small nutritious treats that are made into pocket form and you can slide the pill in and pinch closed.

Food

The older a dog gets, the more sedentary he will become and enjoy long and frequent naps. Unless calorie intake is controlled, this could lead to unwanted weight gain. It is a good idea to ask your vet to recommend a quality reduced-calorie diet to keep your dog in ideal physical shape.

Exercise

It's important to be aware of your dog's physical limits as he or she ages. Although at one point, you had to work to keep up with him, your pet will not have the same

endurance as he once had in his younger years. It's a good idea to take your dog on shorter walks, but perhaps more frequently. Working your dog too hard could cause joint inflammation and pain. If you think your dog is suffering from chronic joint pain, consult your veterinarian. They can prescribe an appropriate medication or perhaps glucosamine supplements to ease the aches and pains.

For a more holistic approach, hydrotherapy is a very good option. The water helps keep the dog buoyant and takes weight off of his fragile joints, enabling him to get the exercise he needs without the added pain. Another option could be massage or Reiko treatments.

Whatever method you choose, please be sure to contact and discuss your options with a veterinarian you can trust.



Healthy Treat Recipes

Here are two DIY-treats that help keep calories low while not skimping on flavor and fun!

Liver Dumplings

2-1/2 cups rye flour
1/3 lb fresh chicken liver
2 Tbsp chopped parsley
3-1/2 Tbsp sunflower oil
About 1/2 cup water

- Preheat the oven to 340° F and line the baking pan with baking paper.
- Cook chicken liver in water about 15 minutes and let it cool.
- Puree chicken liver with water.
- Measure rye flour.
- Add pureed chicken liver, parsley, and oil and stir to a smooth dough.
- Make small balls, about 3/4" diameter, with your fingers.
- Bake about 25 minutes at 340° F.

Salmon Cookies

2-1/2 cups wheat flour
2/3 cup soft oatmeal
1/2 lb raw salmon fillet
1 egg
3-1/2 Tbsp sunflower oil
About 1/2 cup water

- Preheat oven to 300° F and line baking pan with baking paper.
- Cook salmon fillet for 15 minutes and let it cool.
- Puree fish with water.
- Measure and mix wheat flour and oatmeal.
- Add the salmon, egg, and sunflower oil.
- Mix everything in to a smooth dough with a hand or electric mixer.
- Roll the dough to about 1/4" thickness on a floured surface and cut out with a cookie cutter.
- Put the cookies on the sheet and bake them about 20 minutes at 300° F.



Your A-Z Guide to new kitten ownership

SECOND INSTALLMENT : Letters m-z

Let this
alphabetical
list guide
you through
the process
of acquiring
and caring
for a new
kitten...

M - Milk

The only milk your kitten needs is the kind its mother provided during nursing. Giving your cat or kitten milk can cause diarrhea.

N - Naps

Cats and kittens typically sleep up to 16 hours a day. Most of these snoozes are short catnaps. Do not bother your pet during a nap...they will look so cute and peaceful, but they appreciate the interruption as much as you would.

O - Observation

Careful observation of your cat's normal behavior will quickly alert you if something's wrong. Cats are notorious for hiding illness and injury, so it's up to owners to quickly catch on when a kitten is not quite acting like itself. Have your pet's eating and drinking habits changed? Is the litter box cleaner or filthier than normal? If so, it's time for a visit to the veterinarian.

P - Products

The basic products you need before bringing home your new kitten are: food and water bowls, food, litter, a litter box and scoop, a carrier, a collar and identification tag, a brush and flea comb, nail clippers, a scratching post and toys.

Q - Quality Time

Often considered independent creatures, cats actually need to spend time with their family members. Play sessions with interactive toys are fun for you and your kitten. Some kittens especially love lap time when you're watching TV or chatting on the phone. Brushing your kitten also offers a chance to bond.

R - Roughhousing

Never use your hands or feet in playing with your kitten. It might seem cute now, but bites and scratches can be very serious, and you do not want to train your cute little kitten to become a full-grown terror. If your kitten likes to pounce at your hands and feet, distract it by tossing a toy away from you or squirt it with water. Never hit your cat. If you and your human family members are consistent, your kitten should quickly learn that rough play with human body parts does not yield good results.

S - Safety First

Kitten-proof the areas of your home in which your kitten will be allowed access. The best way to do this is to get on your hands and knees and look at your home from your kitten's perspective. Do you see dangling cords or plants that would be fun for your kitten to chew or pull on? Is there a small crevice in which your kitten could get stuck? Be proactive and you can enjoy an emergency-free kittenhood.



T - Training

The key to training your kitten is consistency and positive reinforcement. Treats and affection make great training aids. One of the first "tricks" you should teach your kitten is to come when called. This comes in handy when you need to find your pet. Every time your kitten comes to you when you call its name, praise it and/or give it a small treat. Another important lesson is appropriate scratching surfaces. Place a small treat on a scratching post to entice your kitten and rub the post with your fingers. If that doesn't work, gently rub your kitten's paws on the post. Whenever your pet scratches on the post, praise it and/or give it a treat. It will quickly learn that using the scratching post is a rewarding experience.

U - Unconditional Love

Your new kitten needs your unconditional love, especially during its adjustment period. Never yell at or hit your kitten. Welcome its affection and learn to appreciate its unique personality.

V - Veterinary Care

Take your kitten to the veterinarian as soon as possible to make sure it is healthy. Your pet needs annual checkups, even if it seems fine. Don't hesitate to contact your veterinarian with any questions or to describe a change in your kitten's behavior.

W - Wild Behavior

Kittens are known for wild behavior. While you're

sitting on your sofa relaxing, you might see your tiny friend jump up and race from room to room. Sometimes your kitten will bat and play with the air. Or perhaps your pet chooses to stare at the wall. Your kitten is not crazy. Sometimes they can see or hear things humans miss, such as the light hitting the floor in a certain way, a critter in the wall or a floating fluff of dust. Or, perhaps your kitten is just releasing some pent-up energy

X - Xmas

The holiday season can be filled with dangers for curious kittens. Be sure to keep human snacks, tinsel, ribbons, tree water, electrical cords and other dangers out of your pet's access.

Y - Youth

Kittenhood generally lasts for one to two years, depending on your cat's breed. After that, your pet is considered an adult cat.

Z - Zoonoses

There are a few animal diseases, such as rabies, toxoplasmosis, Cat Scratch Disease and ringworm, that can be transmitted to humans. Most are transmitted through bites, scratches or ingestion. Prevention is the primary way to avoid getting these diseases. Do not allow your kitten to bite or scratch you, and wash hands with soap and water immediately after interacting with pets or their waste.



Fast Facts:

Pet Rabbits

- Rabbits are quite tame pets and are very social animals, they are very entertaining to watch play and interact with each other
- Rabbits can develop very close bonds with their owners
- Many can be trained to do tricks and other behaviors by using gentle training methods such as a clicker
- They can be litter trained
- They need a good amount of interaction and play time with their owners or other rabbits to live a happy life. Daily exercise outside of their cage is necessary
- Rabbits need lots of roughage, such as quality hay and fresh vegetables. Pellets alone do not give them their needed daily nutritional intake
- Lots of toys should be provided for your pet to chew on, and any spaces open to the rabbit should be bunny-proofed.
- Rabbits need a nice large cage. It is advisable to keep your rabbit an indoor pet. Inside they will be safe from predators, harsh weather, and can be more social with the family
- Though rabbits enjoy human company, some would often rather not to be held or handled for extended periods of time
- Pet rabbits should be spayed or neutered...and can require vaccinations depending on your location.





BLACK BEAR FUNDRAISING

**Is Excited to Announce Our NEW
JACK LINK'S FUNDRAISER!
VERY POPULAR FOR KIDS AND ADULTS OF ALL AGES!**



**JACK LINK'S
BEEF JERKY**

**MESSIN' WITH
SASQUATCH**



- Great Taste!
- High Protein
- Low Carb
- Low Fat

**For More Information Call Black Bear Fundraising at
1-888-816-4868**

Teamwork. Honesty. Responsibility.

Leadership. Integrity. Sacrifice.

Hard work. Loyalty. Dedication. Courage.

For some, these are just words.

But for the Pittsburgh Passion Women's

Pro Football Team, these words

are a way of life. Literally.



Continued on next page

Just ask Teresa Conn, the team's co-owner and head coach. "If you want to be champions on the football field," she says, "you have to truly understand what it takes to get there. Our players understand the power of those words, and they take them very seriously. That's one of the reasons we've been so successful."



Women's Football Alliance, a full-contact American football league with 62 teams across the United States and Mexico.

In the Passion's first season in 2003, they played their home games at Belle Vernon Area High School, where they had no indoor practice facility and held practices outside all winter.

"It wasn't always comfortable being out in the elements," says Conn, "but I think it made us tough. And in professional football, tough is good."

In 2004 the team moved to Moe Rubenstein Stadium in Ambridge, where they led the National League in attendance. The following year the Passion was named as the league's Team of the Year and was even featured in *Sports Illustrated*.

The following year, and the team moved into George Cupples Stadium (aka, South Stadium) on Pittsburgh's South Side.

In 2007, the team launched the "Passion for Life Foundation," which, through recurrent, direct, and on-site educational outreach, offers youth sports camps, motivational speakers, and more. Today the team is involved in over 250 community service events annually.

It was also during 2007 that Comcast began airing the Passion's home games, bringing even more attention to this growing team. By the end of that season, they were crowned as undefeated National Champions.

This year, after playing its last two seasons in Wexford, the Passion is returning to its home field of Cupples Stadium on the South Side, where it should be big year for the team. New deals with cable channels like ESPN 3 will help introduce the Passion to a whole new audience by making the games accessible to over 72 million homes across the country.



The team's first home game for the 2011 season is set for April 30 against the Columbus Comets. The last time the two teams met was in the National Championship in 2007—so it should be an outstanding home opener.

In one of the more exciting developments for the Passion's 2011 season, Pittsburgh Steeler hall-of-famer Franco Harris has joined Conn as a co-owner of the team.

In a recent *Pittsburgh Business Times* article by Malia Spencer, Conn touched on what Harris' involvement will mean for the team.

Continued on next page





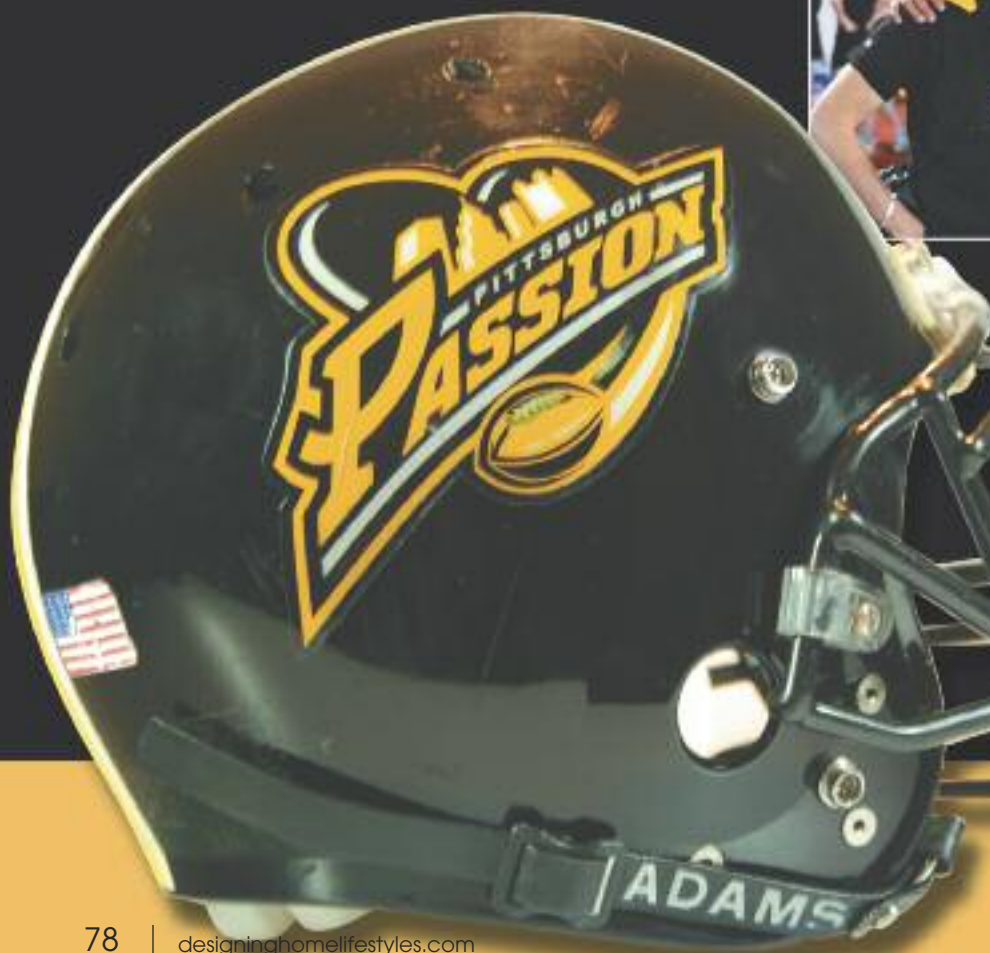
“For us, Franco has been a help from day one,” said Conn. “He has believed in us, mentored the program and just been outstanding to our team in every way a person could be.”

Harris, who is most remembered for his “Immaculate Reception” in the 1972 the AFC divisional playoff game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Oakland Raiders, is a football legend, and his involvement should bring even more attention to the team this year.

“I was really surprised by the talent and the level of play,” said Harris in the January 3, 2011, Pittsburgh Business Times article. “One of the things that sold me on it was Teresa herself, not only the level of play she expects on the field — Pittsburgh Passion is always a top team — but the commitment to the community off the field.”

“We’re just so excited to have Franco as part of our team,” said Conn. “He’s a football legend, and I know he will have an overwhelmingly positive effect on our players this season and beyond.

What’s truly amazing about the Passion and its success over the years is the fact that its players are just normal people with real 9-to-5 jobs during the week.





"These women are professionals," says Conn, "but they still have normal everyday lives, too." Conn says that the Passion roster is made up of women ages 18 to 49 from all lines of work: stay-at-home moms, nurses, college professors, lawyers, waitresses, and everything in between. The team often practices late at night, from 8-11 p.m., since it's the only time most are available.



And on top of all that, they also do unteer community service all year long. Talk about dedication.

"These women love football, but they have lives and families, too," says Conn. "I think the commitment they show, day in and day out, is remarkable, and I'm very proud of them all."

One of the things Conn is most proud of is the team's diversity.

"Our team is full of very different people," she says, citing things like ethnicity, education level, and backgrounds. Conn is quick to point out, however, that this diverse makeup only makes the team stronger.

"We have found a way to work and grow, day by day, shoulder to shoulder, supporting and inspiring each other," she adds. "And because of this, we have had a great deal of success."

Conn believes that sports, directed the right way, can have an amazing impact on lives. "It may look like we are training for football," she says. "However, we all know that we are training for life, and the football field is a very symbolic representation of life." ▽

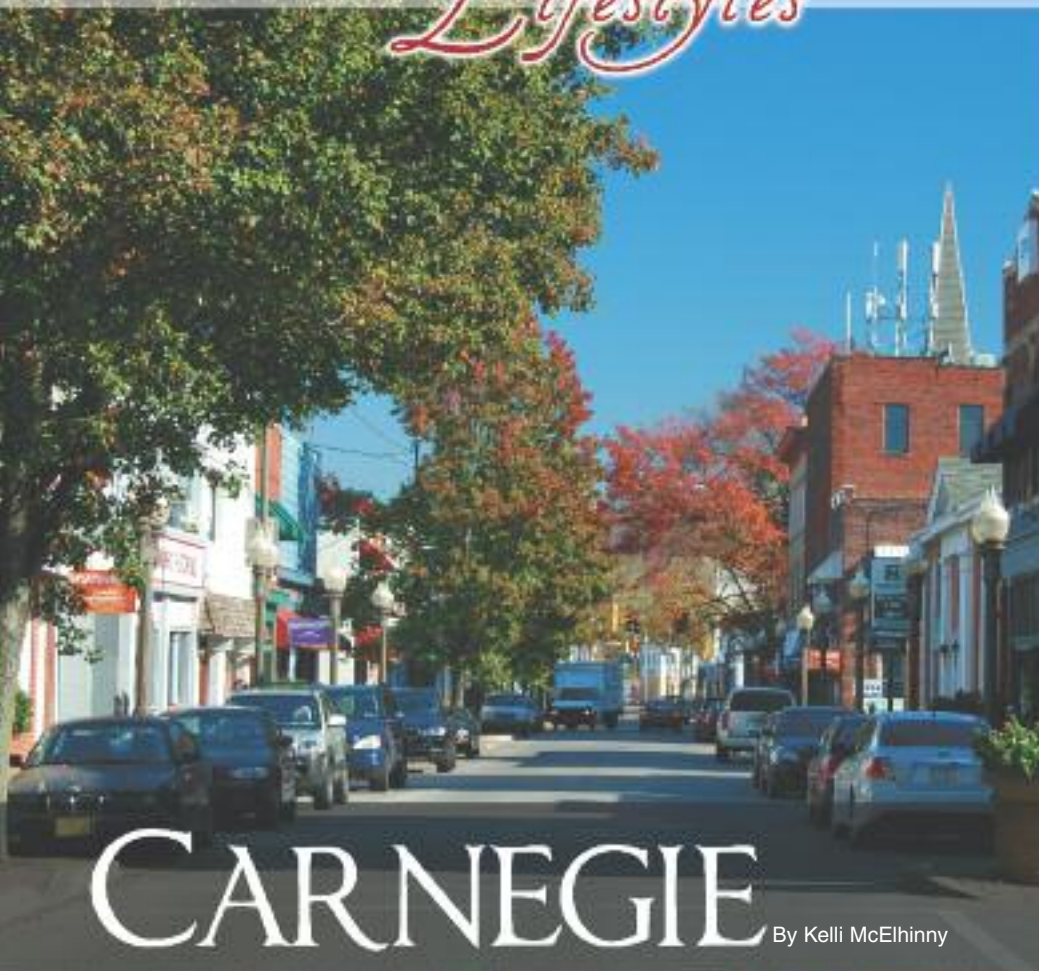


For more information on the Pittsburgh Passion and to view the team's complete 2011 schedule, visit www.pittsburghpassion.com.



***Teamwork. Honesty. Responsibility. Leadership. Integrity. Sacrifice.
Hard work. Loyalty. Dedication. Courage.***





CARNEGIE

By Kelli McElhinny

Pittsburgh's most famous industrialist and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, financed both the high school and the library in this western borough when it was first incorporated in 1894. In turn, Carnegie took the name of its benefactor to honor him. Well over than a century later, Carnegie endures and holds a number of attractions for residents and visitors.

Situated between the Parkway West and I-79, Carnegie's location has generally been an attraction for its businesses and residents. When Hurricane Ivan struck in 2004, however, Carnegie was hit hard by the rising waters of Chartiers Creek. Fortunately, the business district has rebounded from the natural disaster and now includes a number of unique establishments.

If you're in town on a Thursday, Friday, or Saturday, be sure to visit D&J Records. This unique store features a large collection of vinyl and bargain CDs from the '50s to the '90s, and a healthy dose of retro kitsch lines its walls. D&J also sells used stereo systems, and a guitar autographed by the band Aerosmith tempts customers, too.

Its price tag? \$2,000—not negotiable. If musical instruments (or even sheet music) are more your speed, stop by Modern Piano, which may have the merchandise you need.

If you're looking for a unique '50s-style motif for your game room, you'll find what you need in Carnegie. Gino's Malt Shop collection includes booths, tables, and accessories. Even if you're not planning a revamped basement space, it's fun to peek in the store's windows.

Are model cars your thing? Visit Pittsburgh Grand Prix for a complete collection of kits and parts. Black Lamb Consignments is a great spot for picking up a unique piece of furniture or a home accessory.

In addition to its one-of-a-kind shops, Carnegie has plenty of options for eating and drinking, too. Located in a converted church, Cefalo's Restaurant and Nightclub serves as both a live entertainment venue and a fine dining restaurant. Paddy's Pour House is a popular spot with a menu heavy on Irish fare. Papa J's, a neighborhood institution, offers upscale Italian dining.

The recently opened East Main Deli is a good option for a quick lunch or breakfast. The Sunset Grill and Café has some Turkish dishes included in its menu of pizza, hoagies, and salads.

Eastern European food is plentiful in Carnegie, as well. Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church has regular pyrohi (a.k.a. pierogie) sales and hosts a food bazaar in April. Kolos, an ethnic food store housed in a tiny storefront in the heart of the business district, makes the most of its limited space, packing a variety of delicacies from the Ukraine and other nearby countries onto its shelves.



Carnegie residents honor their history as well. The Historical Society of Carnegie operates from a building on East Main Street that is home to the town's military wall and a small museum honoring Honus Wagner, the professional baseball player, who may be the borough's most famous native son.

In another nod to years gone by, the library branch that Andrew Carnegie built for the borough at the turn of the 20th century is a historical landmark and an architectural gem. Perched atop a hill, which gives it a picturesque view, the library's array of books includes the Kathleen Bowman Enyon Memorial Civil War Collection. The library is also home to performance space and a reception hall.

Carnegie has an important place in Pittsburgh's athletic history, too. In addition to Wagner, who went on to star for the Pittsburgh Pirates, the late Wake Forest basketball coach Skip Prosser was born and raised in the borough. NFL player and coach Mike Ditka was born there, too, although he is more often associated with Aliquippa.

Carnegie is a walkable town with much to offer, so it's an excellent location for a springtime sojourn. ▽

on the menu:

Jacksons

Restaurant - Rotisserie - Bar

"We Make Life Taste Better"



**Hilton
Garden Inn®**

Pittsburgh/Southpointe

724-743-5005



**DOUBLETREE®
HOTEL**

PITTSBURGH AIRPORT

412-329-1405

*Join us on Friday Nights
this Summer for Live
Entertainment on the Patio
at both Jacksons locations*

Call for reservations or visit experiencejacksons.com

Jacksons

Restaurant - Rotisserie - Bar



experiencejacksons.com
412-329-1405 (Moon)
724-743-5005 (Southpointe)



**Executive Chef Rick Davison
of Jacksons Moon Township**

Jacksons Restaurant Rotisserie Bar has two locations – the Doubletree by Hilton Pittsburgh Airport and adjacent to the Hilton Garden Inn Pittsburgh/Southpointe.

Both Jacksons locations feature open demonstration kitchens where chefs expertly prepare artful American Cuisine with an international flair.

Jacksons is famous for their outstanding seasonal items and signature dishes such as their famous Shrimp and Chorizo Chowder and Jumbo Lump Crab Cakes.

Chef Rick Davison is the Executive Chef at the Doubletree by Hilton/Jacksons Restaurant-Rotisserie-Bar in Moon Township.

“We feel a strong responsibility to do what is right for our guests as well as our environment. Leading the way with a menu where our guests can choose a meal they know is fresh, healthy, and kind to our environment is just the logical way to go,” says Davison.

It is well known that eating seasonally and regionally provides for the best flavor and quality. At Jacksons Restaurant-Rotisserie-Bar, this knowledge combined with a simple yet powerful passion for food has always shined through in a menu which changes according to the seasons and uses only the freshest ingredients.

This Spring, Jacksons Restaurant-Rotisserie-Bar Moon will introduce a new menu featuring local (in many cases right from the on-site garden) produce and ingredients as well as responsibly sourced seafood.

Jackson Restaurant-Rotisserie-Bar, Moon location is at 8402 University Boulevard Moon Twp., PA 15108 and Southpointe is located at 1000 Corporate Drive Canonsburg, PA 15317.

At Jacksons **“We Make Life Taste Better”**

Grilled Spring Vegetable & Risotto Terrine – Olive and tomato skewer, tuffed watermelon radish and carrot slaw with charred lemon basil tofu.



Baby Beet, Feta and Cous Cous Salad – Assorted baby spring beets, barrel aged feta cheese, raisin fondue and golden corn shoots with micro greens.



Seared Hawaiian Blue Marlin – Romanesco, purple cauliflower, pistachio leek pudding with micro greens.



Jerk Shrimp and Zucchini Fritter – Curried coconut emulsion, pea tendril and autumn fire salad with turmeric oil.



For beer enthusiasts, it's hard to imagine your favorite brew tasting any any better. But mixologists in hip bars across the country are bringing the idea of the beer cocktail into the forefront. From the Classic Shandy and Michelada to the more adventurous Beeraquirilla and Flaming Dr. Pepper, we hope these recipes can brew up some great times enjoyed with family and friends.

CLASSIC SHANDY

Both the American Heritage Dictionary and UK legislation have defined the “shandy,” short for shandygaff, as a mixture of beer and ginger beer, ginger ale or lemonade. This drink gives all the pleasures of beer with the refreshment of lemonade — a tangy, tasty drink.

This old English tradition dates back to the 17th century. Although the origin is not clearly known, some believe that it was named after a local English pub where the beer was not of the best quality and was flavored with a sweet lemon mixture.

Fill a pilsner or beer mug with lager and top with ginger ale, ginger beer or lemonade. If you are a bit more adventurous, try a shandy with limeade. Don't be afraid to add ice to this drink. You can't do that with your beer.

MICHELADA

12 oz beer	juice of 1 lemons
2 dashes Worcestershire sauce	1 dash soy sauce
1 dash Tabasco® sauce	1 pinch black peppers
salt	

Mix ingredients in a tall high glass with lots of ice. Add beer, mix and serve.

MEXICAN ICED TEA

1 part tequila
3 parts beer (Mexican beer is preferred)
A dash of lime juice

Gently stir the ingredients in the glass.

CARIBBEAN BOILERMAKER

1 bottle Corona® Extra lager
1 shot light rum

Pour the Corona into an 18 oz beer glass pour the rum into the beer.

BEERAQUIRILLA

5 oz Bud Light® lager	1 handful ice
1/2 oz 1800® Tequila	1/2 oz light rum
3 oz strawberry daiquiri mix	3 oz margarita mix

Pour into a blender in this order: ice - beer - tequila - rum - daiquiri mix - margarita mix. Blend until frothy, then pour.

GUINNESS SLAMMER

3 oz orange juice
12 oz Guinness® stout
1/2 oz Amareda liqueur

Start with orange juice in the bottom of a pint glass, layer Guinness stout on top of the OJ, float amareda on top, chug the whole thing.

FLAMING DR. PEPPER

3/4 shot amaretto almond liqueur
1/4 oz 151 proof rum 1/2 glass beer

1. Fill a shot glass about 3/4 full with amaretto and top it off with enough 151 proof rum to be able to burn.
2. Place the shot glass in another glass and fill the outer glass with beer (right up to the level of the shot glass).
3. Ignite the amaretto/151 and let it burn for a while. Blow it out and slam it. Tastes just like Dr. Pepper.

BLACK VELVET

5 oz chilled stout
5 oz chilled Champagne

Pour stout into a champagne flute. Add champagne carefully so it does not mix with stout and serve.

LIME BEER COCKTAIL

makes 6 servings
1 (6-pack) light beer 1 can frozen limeade
1 lime, sliced in half

Pour beer into a large pitcher. Add still-frozen limeade and stir to combine. (Stirring with a metal utensil can reduce foam.) Allow foam to settle. Squeeze half a lime into pitcher. Finely slice the other lime half and place into pitcher, for garnish. Pour into chilled glasses and serve cold.

RASPBERRY BEER

makes 6 servings
3/4 cup fresh raspberries
3-1/2 (12-oz.) bottles beer, chilled
1 (12-oz.) container frozen raspberry lemonade concentrate, thawed
1/2 cup vodka

Using the back of a spoon, mash raspberries in a bowl; transfer to a pitcher. Stir in remaining ingredients. Serve over ice.

Please Drink Responsibly.



STICKLEY

*Fall in love for its beauty. Purchase it for its value.
Cherish it for a lifetime.*

Available exclusively at...

STICKLEY AUDI & CO.

FINE FURNITURE SINCE 1900

1010 ROSS PARK MALL DRIVE, PITTSBURGH 412.369.4577
ROUTE 30 EAST, GREENSBURG 724.836.0050

WWW.STICKLEYAUDI.COM

HOMES THAT MATCH YOUR LIFESTYLE!



Your Window to the World, Window Hill Place, your new home, combines **exciting contemporary design, world class views of Pittsburgh and cutting edge green and energy efficient design.** This unique South Side Slopes residential development is close to all South Side activities and Downtown Pittsburgh.



One of the first "green" housing developments in Western Pennsylvania, Riverside Mews demonstrates that it is possible to blend sustainable, environmentally-friendly materials and systems with great design to create homes that are energy efficient and healthier for their occupants. Walk to amenities including shopping, entertainment and dining; direct access to Pittsburgh's Bike Trail and Riverfront Park!



Vineseian Place

New Single-Level Living by **Sota Home Living Residences!** This quiet cul-de-sac neighborhood, conveniently located between Downtown Pittsburgh and Monroeville, **borders beautiful country club golf fairways.** Customize your new home today! Lots are limited!



A Sota Home Living Residence

A New Direction in Real Estate

180

One80 Real Estate Services, LLC

One80 Real Estate Services, LLC | 2010 Kinvara Drive | Pittsburgh PA 15237 | 412.318.4139


Building a new home?

Give your mortgage a home at Dollar Bank.

Our mortgage experts will make construction financing easy and Dollar Bank retains the servicing of all of our mortgages, so you can feel confident knowing that your mortgage is in caring and capable hands for the duration of your term.

Our Construction Mortgages Offer:

- No points or origination fees for the 5/1 Adjustable Rate Mortgage.
- The process is identical to applying for any home mortgage.
- Mortgage amounts up to \$750,000.
- Lock in a low rate at pre-approval, if rates decrease before your closing, you can lock in the lower rate.
- Make interest only payments as each construction phase is completed.
- Only one closing. Your construction mortgage will automatically convert to a permanent mortgage with the same low rate.



Give your mortgage a home today.
Call 1-800-242-BANK (2265),
visit any Dollar Bank office or
dollarbank.com/mortgage for assistance.

Dollar Bank
Since 1855

Mutually Inspired

Equal Housing Lender. Member FDIC.
Copyright © 2011. Dollar Bank, Federal Savings Bank.