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Here To Guide New Homeowners & Sellers

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Islands in the Mainstream,
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Designers Galore



With so many interior design companies in Lincoln, how will you choose yours?

BY LORI MCGINNIS

You've just moved into a new house and you want to do some redecorating. Where do you start?

Many people start by calling an interior designer. But knowing how to pick the right designer may not be so easy.

The best place to start is by picking a company you have heard something about, said Sherri Fandrich, owner of Sutter Place Interiors, 5221 S. 48th St. The right company has a reputation and stands behind its work.

If you know someone whose interior design you like, find out who did it, Fandrich said.

You probably don't want to duplicate your friend's design, but you can duplicate the warm feeling that the design exudes.

Once you choose the company, choose the designer. Interior design companies may have several designers. Interview one or more and choose someone you are comfortable with, she said.

"If you don't get good vibes from a person, that might be a good indication that you need to interview somebody else," she said.

Paul Daniels, owner of Paul Daniels Interiors, 321 S. 9th St., encourages homeowners to check out a designer's credentials. Look for someone with a degree in interior design and someone who has passed qualified exams.

The right designer should have the ability to listen, and sometimes read between the lines. The right designer will be someone you can communicate with, share ideas and not be intimidated by. The designer



Sherri Fandrich, owner of Sutter Place Interiors

should offer choices, not an inflexible design plan, he said.

“Creative ideas are only the beginning,” he said. “Have they shown they can take a project through its many phases successfully? Has this designer demonstrated the knowledge of construction details building and electrical codes which allows the design to be built and function prop-



than you bargain for.”

Designers should be willing to give you names of other clients for you to contact.

Whitemore also suggests finding a designer whose philosophy is no job is too small. Some designers won't take a job unless it is a certain size. But not everyone needs a complete remodeling. Sometimes just one or two changes can make a difference.

How do you know if you need some design help? Whitemore said your eyes should move up and down a room and not focus on one thing.

“If your eyes stop on one area, it needs some work,” she said.

erly?”

A designer should have the goal of decorating your house the way you want, not what he or she wants, said Bonnie Whitemore, manager and designer at Unique by Design Inc., 5022 Old Cheney Road.

“If they make suggestions about things you didn't ask about, be leery,” she said. “They will give you more





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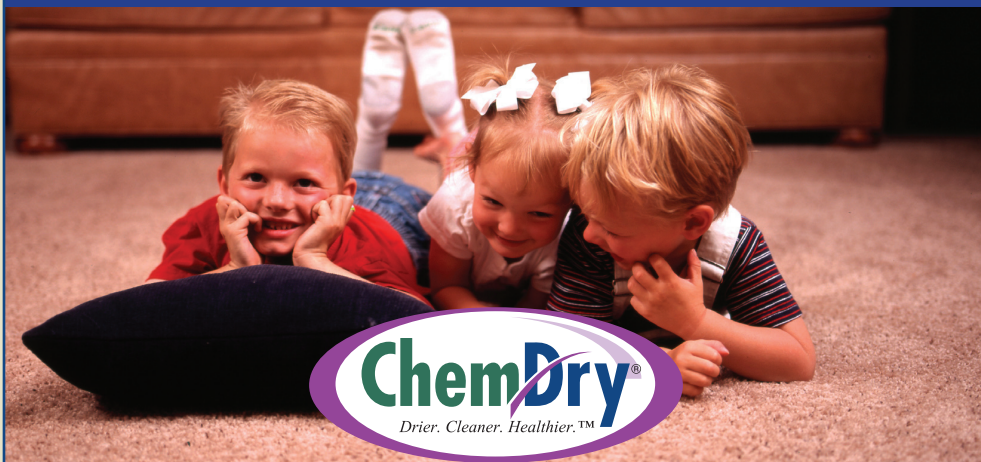
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Islands

in the Mainstream

From relaxing to working to eating, kitchen islands are a culinary getaway for the homeowner who wants to bake her cake and spend time scrapbooking, too.

BY PAUL ROGERS

Imagine the perfect island. If you're thinking sun, sand, tropical breezes and a sweet rum drink served in a pineapple, you probably did not participate in IKEA's worldwide kitchen use survey.

According to a Gallup poll sponsored by the home furnishing store, the kitchen feature that homeowners covet most is an island, no chaise lounge or sunscreen necessary.

Forty-one percent of participants said they wanted to add an island to their kitchens, and those who already had one were twice as likely to be happy with their space as those who didn't.

"When clients come in to us, the vast majority want an island," says Sara Ann Busby, a certified kitchen designer and owner of Sara Busby Designs, Elk Rapids, Mich.

"Usually, they want it for flexibility. It can be used as a cooking space, a dining space, a craft area, a homework area... there are lots of different uses for a kitchen island."

"An island allows more than one person to

work in the kitchen at the same time," says Fred Flock, a certified kitchen and bath designer with Bella Cucina Inc., Southfield, Mich. "They work great for buffets and casual entertaining, and frequently they're positioned so that the host or hostess or cook can converse with guests while preparing the food. It's a more convivial way to use your kitchen."

The flexible functionality an island provides is necessary because the kitchen has become the hub of family home life. In the IKEA survey, only 24 percent of respondents said they use the kitchen solely to prepare food. Instead, they said they use it to entertain guests, socialize, play with kids, work on hobbies and conduct family discussions.

But not just any kitchen can accommodate an island nor can every island deliver the flexibility required by today's homeowner. There are very

few universal do's and don'ts in island design, but one major rule is clear: Don't cram an island into a small kitchen just to say that you have an island. It defeats the purpose.

Ideal aisle space around an island is 48 inches, and kitchen designers say they prefer at least 42 inches. If installing an island leaves less than 36

inches of aisle space, "just don't do it," says Flock.

And although "bigger is better" is the general rule for islands, don't make it so big that it hinders the flow in the kitchen and detracts from functionality. Eight feet by eight feet is about as big as



Split-level: islands are trending toward multiple-height surfaces to create one area for cooking, and another for eating, entertaining or working.

Image courtesy Craft Art

Busby's gone in her designs. A judiciously placed two foot by two foot chopping block can be better than a monstrosity so large that the countertop requires an unsightly seam.

What you have to be careful of in big islands is creating so much countertop that certain areas become hard to reach, says Busby. One client demanded an excessively large island and then realized the center of it was useless. Busby went back and raised the center for flowers or art.

Island design is all about maximizing space: the kitchen space in general, the surface area of the island and the storage space underneath it. Islands have taken the place of the eat-in kitchen, says Judy Adams Hunt, a certified kitchen designer with Eurotech Cabinetry Inc., Sarasota, Fla. "People always wanted a space like that, but now it is a space with storage rather than just a table and chairs."

Below the surface, today's islands include shelves, cabinets, wine coolers, warming drawers, microwave drawers and refrigerator drawers. On top, you'll find prep sinks, bar sinks and plenty of countertop workspace.

"When we talk with clients about what they want an island to do, we usually talk about a lot of flexibility for setting a buffet or having kids do crafts or a variety of things," says Busby.

Designers are finding other ways to keep functionality broad. One of the biggest trends in islands is multiple levels for different tasks. The prep area may be 36 inches high for chopping, slicing and performing other cooking tasks. But the area facing out toward the family room or where guests may be standing might be 42 inches high, blocking part of the mess on the countertop.

Adams Hunt has installed taller 42-inch cabinets on the end of the island not only to shield the view of the prep area but also so people can store dishes or other items without having to bend over. On

other islands, she's reduced the height in places to 30 inches.

"Some people like a drop-down area at 30 inches high instead of 36 inches so they can sit on a chair rather than a stool," she says.

Varying heights also adds eye appeal. No design is purely utilitarian. The different heights add a sculptural element to the kitchen "so it's not just a big box plopped down in the middle of the room," says Adams Hunt.

In addition to different heights, the trend Flock is seeing is varying countertop materials. On one recent design, he combined stone and wood. On another island, the snack bar area featured glass, the food prep area Corian and the rest granite.

"The granite the client selected was extremely expensive, so we put it where it could be seen. For the work surface, Corian is less expensive and easier to maintain," he says. "The glass is for drama," adds Flock, with lighting concealed behind the rear edge adding to the "wow factor."

There is a general trend toward wood countertops that utilize tropical species that are naturally darker in tone, such as wenge and mahogany. The tops feature a natural oil finish, are easy to maintain and hold up well in damp environments,

requiring only periodic re-oiling, says Flock.

Busby is seeing more homeowners use islands as accent pieces for the kitchen, in which the base cabinets and countertop do not match the perimeter cabinets and countertops, but instead compliments them.

"It's a warmer look when you're not running the same materials throughout the whole kitchen," she says.

And as everyone knows, people gravitate to islands for their warmth.



According to an IKEA survey, 41 percent of homeowners want to add an island to their kitchen. When adding, the most important factor is to choose an appropriate size that won't overwhelm the space.

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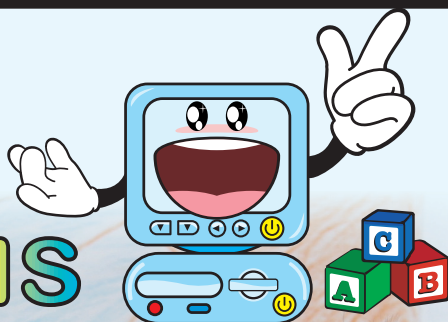
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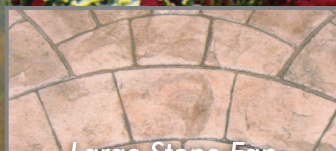
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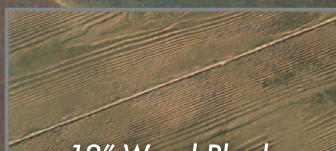
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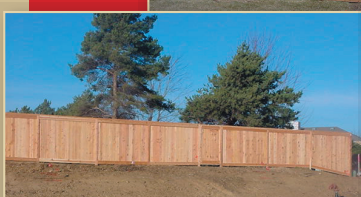
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Make Your New Home Bloom

BY BARBARA BALLINGER

As days grow longer and warmer and you think more about spending time outdoors, it's wise to get your yard and the exterior of your home ready to look their best. Two by-products will be that you'll enjoy spending time outside more, and you'll get positive feedback from neighbors and passerbys: important if you ever decide to sell.

Whether you do the work yourself or hire a gardener or landscape designer, become more knowledgeable by reading gardening magazines, books and seed catalogs. Contact your local County Extension Service or favorite garden shop to find what grows best in your area and what type of soil you have. Also, take a stroll through a botanical garden to see the many possibilities firsthand.

Save the best part for last. Put on your grubbier clothes, grab some gloves and gardening tools and head out to your yard. There's nothing like getting your hands dirty to learn what Mother Nature has gifted us. Garden gurus suggest the following tips:

- Spruce up your front door. It's the first thing you and someone else sees, says Kenan White, co-founder and owner with her husband of The Growers Exchange, Charles City, Va. Consider painting it a new color and putting some nice annuals in attractive, clean pots by the front door.
 - Fix and paint shutters. The winter may have taken a toll on your shutters, so be sure they're intact and not peeling. Paint them if necessary.
 - Check walks. Do you have missing or broken bricks or slates? Patch up areas with missing materials and grout. You want a smooth, walkable entranceway. Power wash walks if very dirty.
 - Pave that driveway. With the worst of snow and ice past, seal your driveway, and if it's broken badly, patch or redo it. Be sure you have grass, trees, bushes or flowers nearby to soften its hard lines.
- Get tools ready. Be sure you have properly cleaned and sharpened trimmers, shovels, shears and

other tools to care for your yard.

Clean, edge borders and plant. Remove plants that didn't make it through the winter and prepare the soil where they grew for a new plant, says Colleen Dieter, owner Red Wheelbarrow Plant Care in Austin, Texas. Know why plants died, she adds, so you can plant something that will survive, or improve soil drainage. If you live in a cold climate and had



Gibbs Smith, Publisher

Let the sunshine in: Patching up walkways, cleaning out gutters and planting new flowers are good ways to help your home welcome the spring season.

piled mulch around the crown or base of plants to protect them, pull it back in spring. Add a fresh layer of compost and mulch to improve the soil's health, moderate soil temperatures and prevent weeds, she says.

- Add flowers. The biggest turnoff to potential homebuyers besides an overgrown or messy yard is a blank yard without trees and flowers since it doesn't look lived in, says Bill Golden, a salesman with RE/MAX Greater Atlanta. Come spring, add the right seasonal flowers that will survive in your climate and yard. Know to take divisions of perennials that have gotten too large once soil has thawed or dried out sufficiently, says Gordon Hayward, author of "The Welcoming Garden: Designing Your Own Front

Continued on page 27



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THE PERFECT CHAIR

Everyone wants a cozy place to curl up. Learn how to find it and where to put it.

BY NOLA SARKISIAN-MILLER

Most members of today's home design elite would groan at the sight of Archie Bunker's chair in prime view on the 1970s TV program, *All in the Family*. The rickety, high-back wing chair was more than a dubiously comfortable seat in the house: it represented Bunker's ersatz throne where he reigned as king of his castle.

Fast forward 30 years and the gender mores and styles have undergone tectonic shifts. No longer do men always rule the roost and no longer do comfort and style have to co-exist divorced from one another. Still constant, however, is that age-old remedy to a bad day: cozying up in a welcoming seat all one's own.

"It's not only something personal from the look and feel of the chair, but it's also about personal comfort and enjoying multiple functions from watching TV to enjoying a great view," says Greg Finney, owner of 2Modern.com, Mill Valley, Calif. "It's human nature to want a sanctuary."

These days, seating options for refuge-seekers abound from sleek recliners to more iconic Eames chairs. Chair-and-a-halves, which are smaller than loveseats, paired with ottomans are a modern-day version of the recliner at Aspire Furniture in Vista, Calif. At Rivervale, N.J.-based Textstyle, one showstopper is the Tom Stringer for Textstyle Alinea chair, a sturdy, barrel-backed uphol-

stered chair with wooden legs, named for the high-end eatery in Chicago known for its lengthy meals.

How-to tips gleaned from the current crop of interior design television shows as well as gender preferences are helping guide chair-lovers in their purchase decisions.

"Men love recliners in leather – they just love to be comfortable, put their feet up and have access to the remote, but I've never had a woman ask me about recliners," says Kristin Knickerbocker, an interior designer in Carlsbad, Calif. "Women want cozy reading chairs with light or a chaise for a romantic feel."

Like the women's movement, recliners have come a long way in design, image and sensibility. La-Z-Boy purveys a range of styles from old-school



Location, location: picking out your comfy chair is only half the battle. "Arranging furniture is about social distance," says Julie Eizenberg, a Santa Monica, Calif.-based architect. Make sure your seat isn't at a remove from other furnishings and is warmed by natural light.

looks featuring wide arm posts and biscuit-style backs to the cleaner lines of the mission-style recliner with bent wood arms. Design-conscious customers also will appreciate the mid-century

influences in the Todd Oldham by La-Z-Boy collection.

The goal is to offer cozy styles “to meet every design taste from traditional and contemporary to country and modern,” says Paula Hoyas, vice president of upholstery merchandising for La-Z-Boy, Monroe, Mich.

Hoyas said micro-suedes, chenilles and leathers are the preferred fabric choices in neutrals and bolder colors such as citrus greens, raspberries and bright blues.

When it comes to selecting furniture styles and fabrics, most design experts suggest taking stock of one’s comfort needs and inspirations before making any decor decisions. Is the chair for looks or long hours with a book? Is it intended to complement a beloved antique coffee table? And, exactly how old are the intended users?

“As people get older, they go from well-worn choices to those that are firmer,” says Patrick Kearney, who manages the Textstyle custom furniture showroom in New York City.

Selecting the room’s focal point and orienting everything in the room to highlight is another step in determining the best arrangement for furniture. For some people, the perfect perch is in front of a widescreen plasma or LCD television set mounted on the wall and for others it can be beside an artfully placed fountain. At the same time, the setting should be comfortably conducive to conversation.

“Arranging furniture is about social distance – if it’s too spread out, it doesn’t work,” says Julie Eizenberg, a principal at Koning Eizenberg Architecture, Santa Monica, Calif.

For those families comfortable without defined seating areas, the communal comforts of the sectional sofa are an alternative to the singular chair, accommodating everyone’s derriere in the household while affording all of them a decent vantage point.

“Sectional sofas have taken the lead as the big comfort statement of the room,” says Bella Zakarian

Mancini, named one of New York’s Top 100 interior designers by New York magazine and owner of the interior design firm Ruby. “There’s a place for everyone to sit and talk with ease and nobody is left out.”

Mancini encourages her customers with young



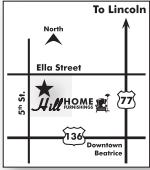
Cover me striped: before selecting the fabric, decide where to place the chair and how it will interact with the room. If it’s the focal point, choose a fabric that commands attention, but doesn’t depart from the room’s style.

children to select durable and easy-to-clean fabrics, including wool felts, cotton velvets and linen velvets. She doesn’t advise using leather, which can overpower the setting, especially in those tight quarters where sectionals typically line the walls.

For those adventurous customers willing to splurge on directional, avant-garde pieces, such as an Arne Jacobsen Egg Chair, the trick is to maintain the design scheme throughout the living space from the coffee table to the bookshelf or risk a chaotic vision and perhaps some bad feng shui.

“You want all of your design elements to be consistent,” says Sarah Van Assche, who owns a full-service interior design firm in Chicago. “Furnishings should be compatible when it comes to design details. A skinny leg may not go with a chunky contemporary leg.”

Image courtesy Palliser



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Home Bloom

Continued from page 21

Garden" (Gibbs Smith, Publisher, 2005).

- Trim. Regularly trim bushes and shrubs when they look untidy.
- Prune trees. If branches have broken or are dangling, prune them if you can reach them – if not hire a service. Prune fruit trees and other shrubs before buds break, but avoid pruning those that bleed if pruned in the spring, says Hayward. You periodically may want to have trees evaluated for disease and structural defects, says Ronald White, a vice president for Glen Gate Co., Wilton, Conn.
- Water well. Having enough water keeps plants, trees and the lawn healthy, so check sprinklers and hoses, says Karen Cords, technical and training director for Massey Services' GreenUP, Orlando, Fla. The amount of water depends on grass type and climate. A good rule of thumb: Water when grass wilts and water deeply.
- Seed. Seed your lawn, including the back yard, as weather warms. Put in the right grass type for your location. You may need to put in both shade- and sun-loving grasses, says Cords.

- Mow. Get your mower ready for action by changing the oil and air filter and sharpening blades, says Dr. Doug Linde, associate professor of agronomy and environmental science at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pa. For the best cut, John Deere experts suggest mowing in the mid-to-late morning when it's cool and dry and follow the "one-third lawn" rule. Never remove more than one-third of the grass blade at one time and don't cut grass too short.

- Fertilize. Giving your lawn and plants enough fertilizer is akin to feeding them properly. "When it's spring, your lawn is waking up and needs breakfast," Cords says. You may need additional fertility throughout summer, depending on grass type. Don't forget to add weed prevention, but be careful about herbicides since they're designed to kill plants.

- Check lighting. Though spring brings more daylight, be sure lights work around your house and add some in trees for mood.

- Bring out outdoor furniture. If you've taken patio furniture indoors for winter, scrub it and bring it back outdoors.

- Clean gutters and the roof.

- Add garden features. Consider adding structural items to enhance your garden – a gazebo, birdbath, arbor or pond, says White.

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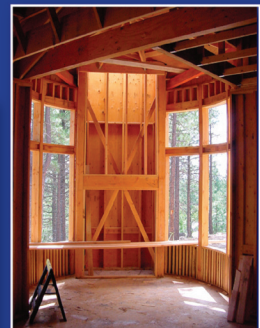
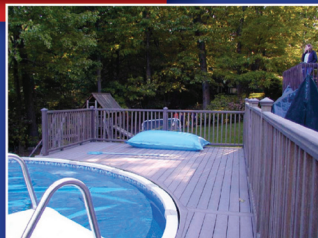
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Installing a Retaining Wall

Adding a retaining wall to your landscape is a perfect solution to address trouble spots in your yard or to accent areas of beauty. Retaining walls can be a functional way to prevent erosion on slopes or a way to draw attention to raised planting beds. There are many options and a wide selection of styles and colors to blend in seamlessly with your home and its surroundings.

You can build it! Installing a retaining wall on your property is an easy project for the "do it yourselfer". As with any project, the key is planning. Selecting the correct size and style of retaining wall block is an important starting point. The following are other factors, which should be taken into consideration before beginning your project;

- What is the length and height of your wall?
Correct estimates can save time and labor.
- What is the proper base material for your wall?
Sand, gravel, and chipped limestone are all suitable materials depending on the height of your wall.
- What drainage system is most suitable based upon the location and size of your wall?
- Is terracing or multiple levels being considered as components of your project?



If you are searching for ways to create a focal point or something more practical like replacing the old rotting railroad tie retaining wall, your friends at GE Landscape Supply are here to assist you with all your landscaping needs. Whether it is estimating quantities of materials, determining which material best suits your project, or assisting with site selection, our goal is to help you create the landscape you desire.

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Using a shovel, dig out a trench. The trench should be as deep as your building stones are tall. If your retaining wall is to be greater than 4 feet tall, the trench should be deep enough to completely bury the first layer of stones below grade.



Grade the base of the trench with a garden rake. The bottom of the trench should be smooth and level.



Fill the trench with 4 inches of chipped limestone, gravel or other base material. Grade the base material until it is smooth and level.



Use a tamper to compact the base material in the bottom of the trench. Check the grade with a level. Add a block and again use your hand level to make sure the first course is level.



Place the first layer of building stones on the prepared base starting at the corner. Position them side by side and level in both directions. Set them with a rubber mallet. Backfill with gravel or other material. If the wall is four feet or taller, be sure to completely bury the first layer in the ground.



Continue assembly by placing building stones in a staggered pattern relative to the layer directly below. Pull each stone forward to secure.



Backfill each level of the wall as it is completed. Finish by placing a layer of soil over the backfill material. Be sure to compact the soil.



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Banishing *Clutter*

Creating space, a huge step towards maximizing home sale profits

BY CYNTHIA S. PETERSON

Home sellers looking to maximize their profits should take a candid look at their home – inside and out – before placing a for sale sign in the front yard. Step into the shoes of potential buyers... Would you buy your home the way it looks today? Be honest.

"For minimal effort and investment, a fresh coat of paint goes a long way towards sprucing up your home. Make sure all appliances and mechanicals are in good working order. Pay special attention to small details, and replace or fix whatever needs to be done before your first showing," suggests Gloria Aron, a realtor with



(Above) Storage hide and seek: recapture lost space beneath a bed, on top of a cabinet or on a shelf. (At right) Nooks with notions: small spaces are best served if each area – office, living room, library, etc. – is defined, tidy and complimentary to the space as a whole.

Wood Bros.

Besides paint, getting rid of clutter is one of the most important low-cost improvements you can make. The hardest, too. After all, this is the stuff of your life and you're emotionally attached to it.

The goal is to make every room, cabinet, closet, drawer, and

shelf look as spacious and organized as possible.

The kitchen is a logical starting place. Free up as much counter space as you can and clean out the cupboards. Box up anything that is rarely used; store the box.

"Sellers often rent a storage unit for all those extras they want to move," said Aron, "Otherwise, selling



or donating items may make more sense." Remember, space is your friend.

Don't forget to empty the junk drawer. Clean out under the sink, and take down most of the photos, cartoons, and artwork from the refrigerator door. Another idea is to start cooking with what you have on hand in the pantry (or in the freezer). Do you really want to cart boxes of canned goods to your new home?

Next, closets are notorious for attracting stuff.

Box up and store the shoes, clothes, bedding, toys, etc., you can realistically do without for a couple of months. (Potential buyers love spacious closets.)

Free up floor and wall space in rooms. If you're confused about how much is too much or too little, tour some furnished model homes for ideas.

Depersonalize, too. Carefully box up (and store) collectibles, knickknacks, trophies, and family photos. You want potential buyers to visualize their belongings in your soon-to-be-former home.

Once you've uncluttered and spruced up the inside, and disposed of accumulated junk in the garage, basement, and attic, turn your attention to the outside. Curb appeal can affect a buyer's decision to walk through the front door.

With many homes at every price point on the market, these steps become more important to get a sold sign in your front yard.



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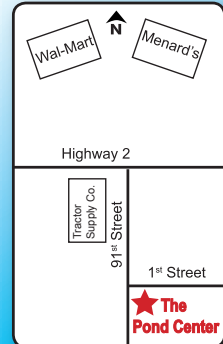
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Jacob North

Taking care of your Green

Keeping up with the new neighbors nice green lawn can be easy...

BY SANDI WITKOWICZ

It's early spring and it's time to make some decisions on how you will handle the green space that surrounds the object of what has likely become your largest investment.

answer. Hiring out portions and doing some yourself is a popular middle-of-the-road option.

For lawn care, many homeowners choose to do the mowing and have professionals apply the chemical program. For Southeast Nebraska the basics include crabgrass prevention, fertilizer, weed and pest control. The knowledge that you have a professional regularly and periodically checking on your green space (i.e. investment) is comforting.

Lincoln's lawn care and landscaping service companies will complete a bid based on the types of functions you would like them to provide. Some companies offer the full gamut of services ranging from chemical application programs and mowing to tree trimming and perennial-bed care. Others offer strictly the chemical programs.

Your personal budget is of course a factor. For a lawn of approximately 8,800 square feet, bids to have

the chemicals applied by a service ranged from around \$300 to \$350. To purchase a widely recognized brand annual lawn program for self-application to cover that same 8,800 square feet would cost about \$100 for



If you already own a mower and other "gardening" equipment, you'll likely choose to jump in and do it all yourself. On the other end of the spectrum, if time, tools, know-how or all are lacking, hiring a service may be the

the chemicals. However, for the first year, the self-application program would also require the purchase of a broadcast spreader for \$30-\$45. The other point to consider is time and timing. First time do-it-yourselfers face a learning curve regarding the timing; the

you feel more at ease with this new challenge.

If your new home comes complete with trees and shrubs, give yourself time to learn about your new landscape plants and their care. Information is available through the University of Nebraska extension division for

Lancaster County www.lancaster.unl.edu and there are books available at the library. "Flower Gardening in the Hot Midwest," by Lincoln native and author Linda Hillegass is a great resource.

Before you decide to tear out those overgrown foundation plantings, make a trip to the local nursery to price replacements. While there, you can always ask for advice on how to spruce up the existing plants with trimming and a fertilization plan. If a plant seems

DIY gal or guy must make time to apply the chemicals.

To have the lawn service mow, the option will range from about \$25 to \$40 or more per week depending on the size of the lawn. The growing (or should we say mowing season?) runs from mid-April through mid-October. A new push style mower can be purchased in the \$300 range depending on quality and features, plus with owning your own equipment there are always maintenance and repair costs.

If you decide on a service, how do you find the right one? If the previous owner used a service, you may want to continue with it. Another option is to ask your friends or new neighbors for referrals. Sometimes companies will give discounts or referral discounts if more than one homeowner in an area subscribes to its service. Get bids and talk with the provider. Those conversations will help

to be ailing, take a sample branch into the nursery. (It's best to put the sample in a bag so that you limit the possibility of spreading

Sometimes companies will give discounts or referral discounts if more than one homeowner in an area subscribes to its service.

disease or contaminating other plants at the nursery.) The nursery staff can almost always offer advice on how to correct the problem. As with lawn care, there are landscaping-service companies that can take care of your shrubs, trees and perennials or just assist.

Regardless of whether you decide DIY or total service, protect your investment by taking good care of your green space.





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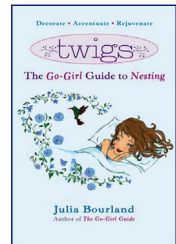
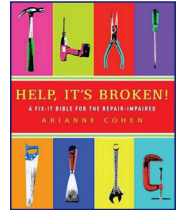
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By JEFF HARDY

Hague Quality Water is a family owned and operated business that has been serving the Lincoln and Omaha communities for five years. Started in May of 2001, by Jeff White, Hague Quality Water of Nebraska is a locally owned business, with national ties. The national affiliation of Hague Quality Water, is over 300 dealers strong.

Hague Quality Water is a full service water dealer. Their services are both residential and commercial. Serving both the city and rural communi-

ties. Hague Quality Water is a one stop solution for all possible water needs. They provide (but are not limited to): water analysis, whole home filtration systems, bottleless coolers, water softeners, and reverse osmosis systems.

The new home owner should be especially interested in the services and products that Hague Quality Water offers. Whether you are an urban dweller drinking city water, or a rural inhabitant drinking well water, Hague Quality Water has the proper solution for either situation. Their seventeen point water analysis allows them to customize a whole-house solution for all your water needs.

Home owners should also take a long hard look at installing a water softener. A typical system from Hague Quality Water will offer a number of advantages. Better tasting water is the first noticeable change, but there are others as well.

A water softener can save the average household hundreds of dollars a year. The average household will save up to 75% on cleaning products, and soap. Adding a water softener allows the soap to work much more efficiently, thus requiring much smaller amounts. The savings do not stop there. Hard water can be very damaging to plumbing, water-heaters, fixtures, and bathtubs. Using a water softener can not only extend the life of these products, but

also allows them to work more efficiently, using less energy. Hague Quality Water actually provides the guests to its web-site with a cost analysis tool @ haguewaterne.com.

Another interesting product is the bottleless water cooler. This product is a great solution for



Jeff White and Dave Bonicatto with Bill & David Hague, receiving the #1 in the Great Plains Region award and Top Ten Salesman award, respectively

either homes or businesses. The product is very simply a water cooler that provides quality, filtered water, without the hassle, or expense, of having a large bottle on top.

What this means to the consumer is that they

have a limitless supply of fresh, cold, filtered water on demand. This product could also save the consumer hundreds of dollars a year, by not needing to purchase bottled water.

Hague Quality Water also has a great combination of a small, and large business mix. They can offer the products and services typical of a large business, but with the commitment and attention to customers that is typical of a small business. Hague



Jeff White in the Hague Quality Water showroom

Quality Water is fully bonded and its installers are all certified and licensed. They are a member of the Lincoln and Omaha Chamber of Commerce, and the Better Business Bureau. If you would like to contact Hague Quality Water of Nebraska, call toll free at 1-800-369-4987, or visit them on the web @ www.haguewaterne.com.

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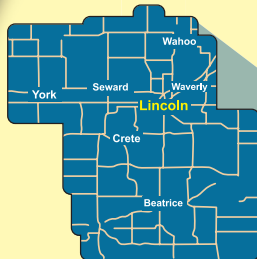
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