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Michiana Home Show

March 13, 5 to 9 p.m.; March 14, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; March 15, noon to 5 p.m.

Century Center

120 S. Saint Joseph St., South Bend

Admission: adults \$8; seniors (65+) \$7; children (12 and

younger) free Parking: \$5

Browse more than 180 local vendors showcasing the latest products and services to improve your living space, inside and out. From remodeling and landscaping to fixtures and decor, there are useful products and information for projects of any scale. Plus, catch seminars from "grillologists" Mad Dog & Merrill and weekend project guru Matt Fox. For more information, visit michianahomeshow.net.

Linton's DIY Seminars & Workshops

Every Saturday, 10 a.m. and noon Linton's Enchanted Gardens 315 C.R. 17. Elkhart

Admission: seminars free, workshops \$10 plus cost of materials

These weekly DIY workshops cover everything from planning your garden and landscape to have color all season long (March 21) to tips for working with hydrangeas (April 11) to incorporating special keepsakes into handmade wreaths (April 18). Find Linton's Enchanted Gardens on Facebook for a full listing of class topics and to reserve your spot.

Machine Sewing 101 Class

March 21 or April 4, 2 to 5 p.m. Make South Bend 2228 Mishawaka Ave., South Bend

Admission: \$35

Learn the basics of sewing with a machine: how to set up the sewing machine, sew in a straight line, finish seams and iron seams. Participants will learn by making a pillowcase. Taught by South Bend resident Caitlin Metzger at the new community workshop Make South Bend. Learn more about Make South Bend, browse other classes and register for this class online at makesouthbend com.

Rain Garden and Rain Barrel Workshops

April 23, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Purdue Extension Conference Room, 4-H Fairgrounds 17746 County Road 34 Ste E, Goshen

Admission: free

May 5, 6 to 8 p.m. Wellfield Botanic Garden 1011 N. Main St., Elkhart

Admission: free

Learn how to install a rain barrel to collect rainwater, and how to design and build your own rain garden. Both methods help slow down the flow of water into the ground, helping reduce stormwater pollution and erosion. Presented by Greater Elkhart County Stormwater Partnership and Elkhart County Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information or to register, visit stormwaterelkco.org.

Southwest Michigan Mini Maker Faire

May 30, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Whirlpool Centennial Park 330 Broad St., St. Joseph, Mich.

This is the first regional version of Make Magazine's annual Maker Faire showcase. The festival gathers makers from across Michiana to show off their latest projects, share ideas and celebrate creativity. Visit swimakerfaire.com for more information.

Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival

Aug. 6 to 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Aug. 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Amish Acres

1600 W. Market St., Nappanee

Admission: adults \$7; seniors (60+), students and active military \$6; children (12 and under) free; two-day pass \$12; four-day pass \$20

This highly anticipated annual festival features a marketplace showcasing more than 300 artists and craftspeople from more than 30 states in a bustling bazaar around the farm pond. Four stages host live entertainment, and food booths serve everything from apple pie to zucchini bread. For more information, visit amishacres.com.



MARSALA Pantone's Color of the Year

By Nathalia Casiano



PANTONE 18-1438

Taking after the fortified wine that gives it its name, Marsala is a versatile color that can be seamlessly incorporated into any decor. This earthy color is sophisticated and versatile, lending itself to texture and patterns alike.



© NYMÖ lamp shade, IKEA

RISE & SHINE

Marsala and metallics are an infallible combination. Copper, bronze and rose gold are three tones that complement this year's color, bringing instant warmth to any environment — be it indoor or outdoor.

Try it out: Ikea's NYMÖ (\$34.99) lampshade is just as sophisticated as it is economical. When paired with lampshades of other colors, it makes a room look vibrant and contemporary. Available at ikea.com.

COMFORT COUNTS

A subtle but effective way to warm up any room is to add Marsala-colored cushions. It makes the room more dynamic and sophisticated, without overwhelming the design scheme.

Try it out: Maraham's brick and greige point pillow (\$175) is available in several color combinations, and adds the perfect pop of color to any room. Available at hermanmiller.com.





© Philip Mast, Hedge House Furniture

EXTRA WARMTH

Marsala is not only an incredibly versatile hue, but also brings out the warm tones in wood. Pair it with rosewood or walnut furnishings for a room that is simultaneously cozy and elegant.

Try it out: Hedge House makes custom furniture in Elkhart County. This walnut coffee table with shelf (\$745) is equal parts mid-century mod and contemporary. Available at etsy.com/shop/hedgehouse.

LOCAL MAKERS







Amy Worsham The Tympanum Press

Specializes in: Letterpress printing. Business cards, special event cards, stationery, bookplates, linocut original artwork, broadsides, even full editions

Labor of love: Worsham, who trained as a graphic artist, says her husband inspired her love for printing. They started Tympanum Press together in South Bend in 2010, shortly after getting married. "I quickly found that the tactile nature of letterpress was rewarding on a number of levels. There is so much to be said for every part of the letterpress printing process, from cutting paper to setting lead type, mixing ink and operating the press," she said.

Something special: "We print on a 100-year-old Kelsey Excelsior printing press that has been in the family since it was purchased new by my husband's great-grandfather. Printing has been a big part of the family since then and we have always created a space for printing inside of our home."

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The shop is currently by appointment only, but a brick and mortar location for walk-in visits is in the works.





Jenny Frech The Soapy Gnome

Specializes in: Natural body care products. Luxury bath products, lip balms and lotions. Shop also carries work by local artisans and classic shaving supplies.

Touch of luxury: Soapy Gnome soaps are made with luxurious oils and scented mostly with essential oils. One of the best sellers is beer soap made with local beers.

Labor of love: "I love providing products that my customers love and that makes them feel like they're being spoiled. It's a fun, creative job that never gets boring."

Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday soapygnome.com • facebook.com/thesoapygnome

You can also find Soapy Gnome products at the Goshen Farmers Market, Purple Porch Co-op in South Bend and Maple City Market in Goshen.

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Elkhart County Home Show - Concord Mall Friday, Saturday & Sunday

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When Meg and Tim Shelly moved into the Strong-Conn mansion, they were faced with the challenge of restoring a piece of Elkhart history, while also making it feel like home.

Photos and story by Sarah Welliver

Walk down Strong Avenue in Elkhart and it's hard to miss the beautiful Strong-Conn mansion.

The historic fixture built in 1884 has been home to Samuel Strong and later C.G. Conn. It was Conn who commissioned architect A.H. Ellwood, after he bought the mansion in 1890, to update it from its Italianate origins to its current Neoclassical design with large 26-foot fluted columns, hand-turned balustrade and a two-story wrap-around porch.

"We use to live on Riverside Drive and when we took walks we would always admire this house," said current owner Tim Shelly. In 1992, he and his wife, Meg, turned their dream of owning the home into a reality.

The first thing you notice walking into the entrance on the east side of the house is a narrow walnut staircase that spirals to the second floor.

Light streams in from tall, narrow windows onto a small space under the stairs with a bench seat. Bright-colored paper in purples, greens, pinks and golds decorate the walls and ceilings of the parlor and library on either side of the foyer. It's a drastic difference from

the dark burgundy that had covered the rooms when they moved

"There was a lot of old paper on the walls, old carpets," Shelly said. "The first year here was a lot of cleaning things up." The couple worked on the upstairs bedrooms first so they could move in with their two sons, 4-year-old Michael and 9-month-old Andrew.

Then the real work began.

Five of the 4-foot capitals above the columns were missing when they moved in and had to be replaced. A new roof was put on. Several trees were removed from the surrounding yard. One side of the large house needed some foundation work.

And that was just the outside.

"It took about 2½ years to strip the woodwork," Meg Shelly said. The teacher at Concord High School remembers spending her time after school and during the summers on the project.

Another big task was replacing the wallpaper. The pair ordered handprinted period papers from Bradbury & Bradbury and commissioned Haselrick & Cross Inc. in Elkhart to install the designs.



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In the carpeted parlor, an intricate fireplace sits in one corner surrounded by painted ceramic tiles. Both the fireplace and mirror above it are original to the home. Except for one small chair in the library and a desk in an upstairs guest room, all of the furniture is

Also new are the cabinets and appliances in the kitchen. It and the parlor are two of Meg's favorite rooms in the house. One exciting discovery in the kitchen was the oakwood floor buried underneath layers of linoleum and thick plywood panels.

But the small area also posed some challenges for Meg, who enjoys baking and having space to cook. Another problem was the second stairwell on the opposite side of one wall. "Everything on that side had to be fairly shallow, there really wasn't a lot of room."

They didn't want to change the layout. Instead, they found an Amish carpenter to build a hidden 6-foot-long table with wooden leaves that extended out from a slender cabinet drawer. For the shallow wall, they scoured the internet and found a refrigerator small enough to fit.

Adapting to the lack of air conditioning wasn't hard. Heaters and sunlight keep most of the rooms warm in the winter. High ceilings and doorways topped with transoms keep the house cool except for the three hottest weeks of summer. "That's when we plug in the fans on either side of our bed and wait it out," Meg said, laughing.

Tim compares the home to a child. "It's always there and always needs attention," he said.

After 15 years of attention, the C.G. Conn Mansion was added

to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. While it was a great moment for the Shellys, the work continues.

The third floor of the mansion has yet to be touched. The space is one large room with a hardwood floor and hip-level lights around the sides. "I think they intended it to be a ballroom," Meg said. "I'd like to do that at some point, but it's going to be expensive."

Mixed in with the years of work put into the historic mansion are family memories of their own. Soccer trophies, basketball posters and college pennants decorate the two rooms upstairs where Tim and Meg's sons grew up.

While the Shellys worked from room to room, Michael and Andrew spent afternoons playing soccer in the yard with their friends or scouring for buried treasure and secret tunnels. "They'd occasionally find a glass bottle or a spoon and come running back, 'oh wow look at this, look at what we found," Meg said.

Upstairs, the ceiling of the boys' bathroom bubbles and peels from two decades of hot showers and no fans. Canvassing and painting the ceiling is one of the things on the list of finished projects that, after 22 years, need a little touchup.

It can be exhausting work at times, but more than anything a fulfilling experience for the couple.

"We're very fortunate, Tim said. "It's a great neighborhood, great people and it feels good to be able to be here and fix it up."

It's something they plan to continue, room by room, for however long it takes.

FRESHEN UP By Nathalia Casiano

Why not add a little renovating to your spring cleaning? It's a great time of year to rethink the design of your home. Although a full renovation takes a lot of time — and a lot of money!

Freshening up the look of a few spaces can be quick, effective and budget-friendly. Before starting, consider these tips:

- Determine your budget, as that will directly affect the scope of the renovations.
- Make a priority list to make the most out of your budget.
- Consider talking to contractor about materials this could be save both time and money.
- Make this an opportunity to reconsider any knick-knacks or clutter that might have accumulated over the years getting rid of excess is, in itself, a renovation worth pursuing!

PATIO

Varnish up

Nothing changes the look of a wooden patio deck quite like a fresh coat of varnish. As the background color for the rest of your decor, it'll make certain colors pop while making others less prominent. It'll also make your deck weatherproof and extend its useful life — an all-around great investment.

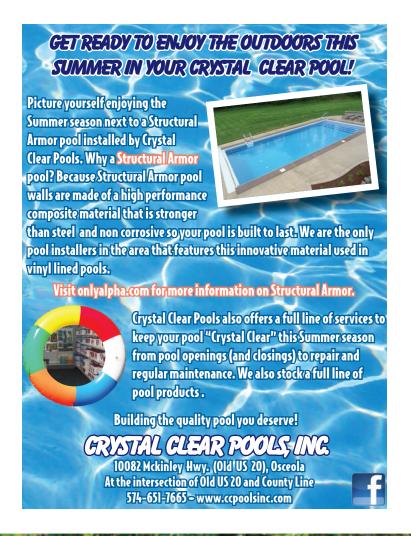
Privacy through decor

It's possible to make your patio more private, even if you live on a busy, noisy street. One simple way to increase privacy while also updating your patio's look is to add a lattice panel with vines and flowers. This will dampen noise from the outside, and increase the visual privacy of your patio.

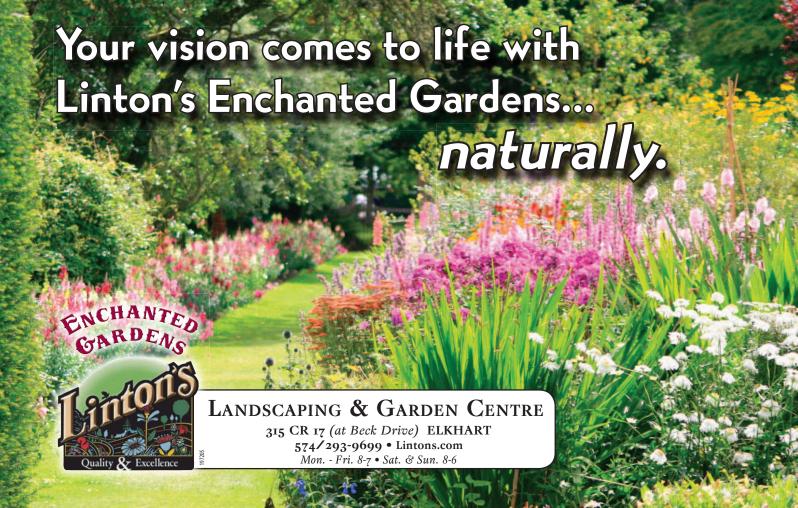


Bring in new light

New light fixtures can dramatically change the look of your patio. Whether the change is from sophisticated to rustic, vintage to edgy, or anything in between, nothing sets the tone for entertaining quite like the lights. For an more inviting space, choose bulbs with warm colors.







LIVING ROOM

Accent away

Picking a new accent color is the easiest way to freshen up your living room. Use inexpensive upgrades such as painting a single accent wall, or switching in new cushions and vases to give your living room a new look for spring.





Musical chairs

For a quick and free change of pace, move your furniture around. Measure out your living room, and sketch different possible layouts for the furniture you already own. The key is to creating a successful arrangement is to focus on how the space is used and how people move around it. By recreating the space with a new arrangement, the room might even look bigger than it did before!

Go green

Bring the outside into your living room by adding plants. They make any space fresher and more inviting, and add visual interest to the room. Look to the architecture and decor of your home for clues as to which types of plants will fit in best. If your decor is rustic, for example, suculents are maintenence-free and enhance the general look of your home.

HALF BATH

Let it sink in

It's amazing how much of a difference a sink can make, and there are so many materials to choose from. Ceramic, copper and glass are just a few possible contenders. As with any design decision, look to the theme of the room to determine which materials further enhance the desired look. If the budget does not allow for a new sink, changing the fixtures is a great economical alternative, and can create just as much of an impact.

Go vertical

Half baths tend to run small, so one way to make the most out of yours is to capitalize on vertical space for storage and decor. Baskets, shelves and other creative storage solutions make the space simultaneously more stylish and functional, while also sticking to a budget.



Add some texture

More often than not, half baths are bland and overlooked. One way to make yours break away from the norm is to add texture — and the options for that are endless! Adding special tile or wallpaper to the main wall is both easy and affordable, and will really make the room pop.



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