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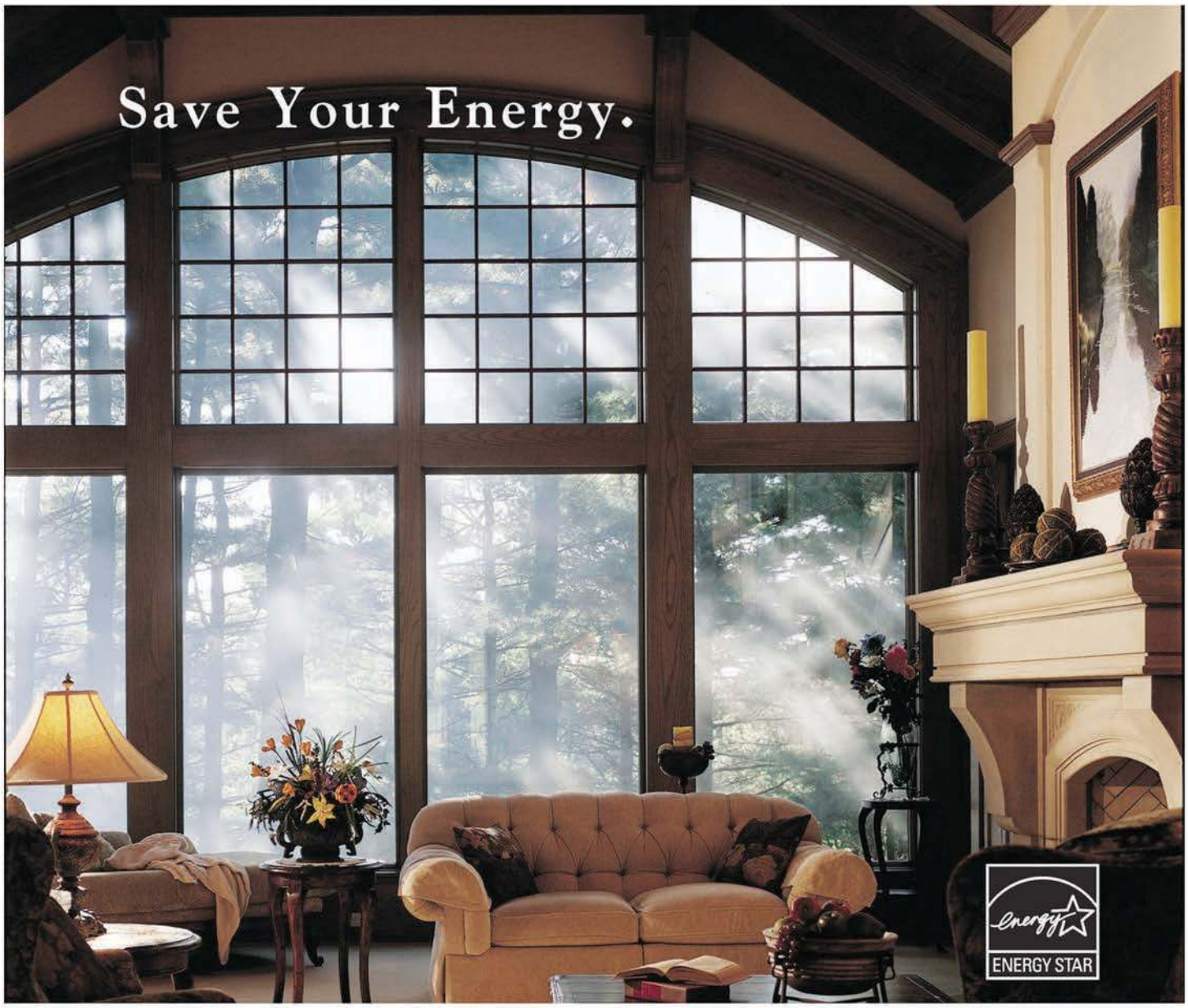

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Feature Home

(ON THE COVER)

16

Sue and Gordon Fraaza liked the home built by Hostetler Custom Homes for the 2021 Parade of Homes so much they decided to have Karry Hostetler build their "forever home". The collaboration resulted in their home winning the People's Choice Award in the 2023 Parade of Homes.

CONTENTS

Apple Pastry Wings

When the Sirens Sound

Repair, Redecorate, or Renovate

Local Furniture Options

The Kalamazoo Nature Center

WELCOME HOME Magazine
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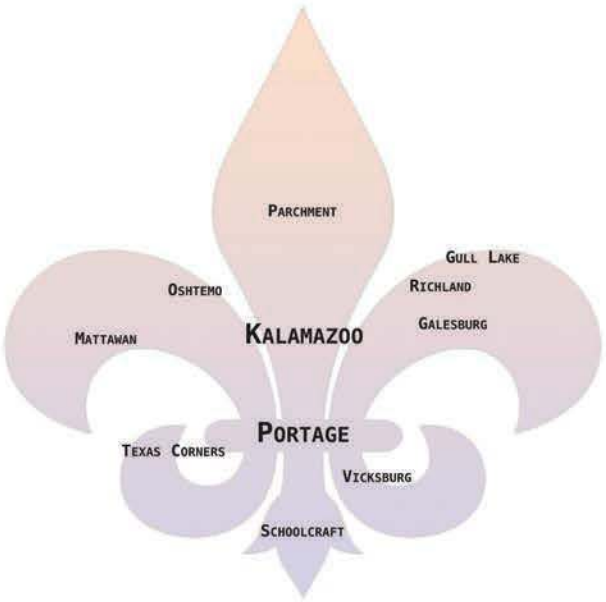

WELCOME HOME Magazine

Welcome Home Magazine is the Kalamazoo Area Home Idea Guide and Lifestyle Magazine.

Welcome Home Magazine is dedicated to the many people who create a warm atmosphere for themselves, their families, and their friends.

Welcome Home Magazine showcases sensational homes crafted by some of the areas premier builders, remodelers and many local building and decorating professionals.

Welcome Home Magazine is written and produced locally and distributed quarterly where local people live, shop, dine and where they enjoy what this area has to offer, a lifestyle that is unique to Southwest Michigan.

Welcome Home celebrates everything that makes Kalamazoo and Southwest Michigan home, including health and fitness, local points of interest, entertainment, dining, shopping, finances, technology, education, home decor, and of course the home itself.

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Celebrate Fall Food

Apple Pastry Rings

Photography by Linda Hoard

Are you looking for a delightful and simple fall dessert that will satisfy your sweet tooth? Look no further than these easy and fun Apple Pastry Rings! With their mouthwatering taste and the convenience of ready-rolled pastry, these apple pastries are sure to become a family favorite. Get ready to indulge in a heavenly combination of flaky pastry and sweet apple filling. Let's get started!

Ingredients:

4 sheets of puff pastry
1/2 cup granulated sugar
3 tablespoons of ground cinnamon
4 large apples
4 tablespoons milk

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 350°F and line two baking trays with parchment paper.

Unroll the puff pastry sheets and use a rolling pin to flatten them and remove any creases.

Cut strips of pastry approximately 1/2 inch thick using a pizza cutter or knife. Use leaf cookie cutters to cut out leaf shapes from any leftover pastry. Set aside.

In a bowl, mix together sugar and ground cinnamon until well combined.

Wash the apples, then slice them into thick slices. Use the end of a piping tip or an apple corer to cut out a circle in the middle of each slice. Coat the apple slices in the cinnamon sugar mixture.

Wrap the pastry strips around each apple slice, ensuring the apple is fully covered. Use milk to help the pastry stick to the dough.

Brush the tops of the pastries with milk, and if desired, place the leaf decorations on top. Sprinkle some more cinnamon sugar on top.

Place the pastries on the lined baking trays, leaving enough room for them to expand as they puff up during baking. Bake in the middle of the preheated oven for 12-15 minutes, or until they are puffed up and golden brown.

Once baked, remove the pastries from the oven and allow them to cool on the tray. Use a spatula to transfer them onto a wire rack to cool completely. Enjoy!

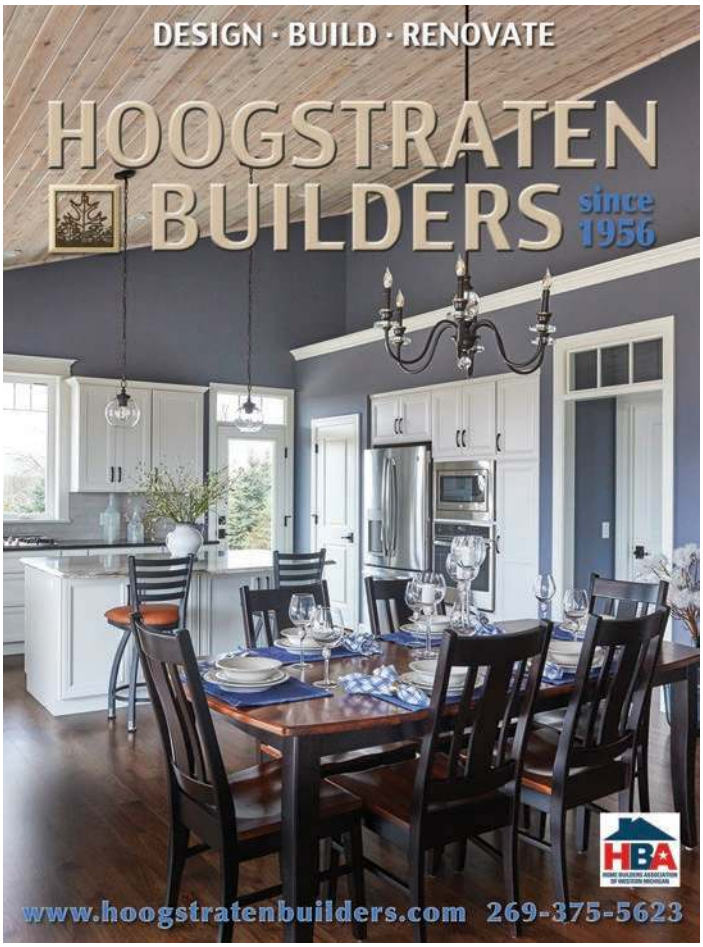

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Photo Courtesy of Flair Interiors

Better Options When the Big Players Leave

By Zinta Aistars

One after another, the super-sized furniture stores have closed. Homeowners in the greater Kalamazoo County and surrounding areas have been left wondering—where to buy that new sectional couch for the living room? Where to find a quality mattress? The perfect upholstered chair?

Never fear. Other options are available in our area with choices to delight. In fact, they have been here all along.

Since 1985, Jessica McGuire, owner and designer at Flair Interiors—originally known as Draperies on Wheels—located at 427 West Cork Street in Kalamazoo, has been fulfilling furniture dreams for homeowners across the county and beyond to Coloma, St. Joseph, and other surrounding counties.

Originally offering only window treatments, McGuire has expanded a showroom that includes custom upholstered furniture, desks and chairs, accessories, and beds. Flair Interiors also offers rugs, lamps, mirrors, lighting, wallpaper, and other accessories to finish off your space with that final touch of perfection.

"Although I still go out to homes for window treatments as well as for interior design assistance," McGuire said. "We can measure your room, plan the space, as many people have problems planning for scale. Pieces can look different in the showroom than they do when you get them home."

Whereas the big-name stores often offered display pieces off the floor, the smaller, local businesses are more inclined to create customized pieces that are uniquely suited to your home—and won't appear anywhere else but in your home.

"We do have some stock and sell out of the showroom, but we find many of our customers want fabrics and sizes that suit them specifically," McGuire said. "The Covid pandemic was hard on businesses—all businesses—and waiting times got really long for a while, as much as a year. But we are pretty much back to normal now. Customers have a wait time of four to six weeks for most custom pieces, not more than six months."

It was interior design that kept Flair Interiors running during the pandemic, but they continue to offer the same services now. "We do it all!" McGuire said. "We'll even hang the artwork that we sell. And we fix things. We have seven-year-warranties on blinds, for instance, so we will come out and restring those if needed at no charge. It's another perk we offer that the big names don't."

On a recent shopping spree for her showroom, McGuire said she is seeing warmer colors come back in the fall line—rust colors, black accents.

"Wallpaper has gotten really huge," she said. "Not the cutesy borders, but we have a wide range of prints for accent walls and bathrooms, where customers now want that sort of thing."

McGuire said she has noticed the increase in business since the big names have vanished, but she added: "It's

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Photo Courtesy of VanDenBerg Furniture

easy to drive by us on Cork Street, or to think we just do windows, but come on in—we can get most anything you want for any room in your home, aside from the kitchen, and we can make it to suit your vision."

FAMILY-OWNED AND LOCAL COMES WITH BENEFITS

Dan Stewart, a furniture salesperson at VanDenBerg Furniture for 19 years, has watched the customer traffic patterns over those years, and he agreed that traffic has increased since the big names left town. He doesn't mind. VanDenBerg Furniture has been a Kalamazoo furniture option since 1937, although they have changed locations three times as the need for more space has increased. Their location now is at 12000 N US Highway 131, where Shaver Road meets the highway just south of town and one mile north of Schoolcraft.

"Waiting times for furniture have gone back to normal here, too," he said. "What took six to 12 months during the pandemic is now down to six weeks to 3 months."

With a 21,00-square-foot showroom and another 6,000-square-foot warehouse off site, many customer choices are readily available at VanDenBerg Furniture, but special orders are common, too.

"We are a second-generation family business," Stewart said. "We give that personalized service—you can even bring in your own design and we can custom make it after determining measurements and sizes."

Stewart said the store sells traditional and contemporary styles of furnishings for living and dining rooms, bedrooms, and home offices. Many pieces are Ohio Amish-made with solid wood. They also offer many other popular brands, starting with FlexSteel, Vaughn Bassett, Ashley, along with many others, with a back room of clearance and specially priced items off the display floor.

"Customers can choose the wood and the finish for the Amish-built furniture," he said. "That's one of our most popular lines."

VanDenBerg Furniture also sells mattresses such as Restonic, but another popular line is Lady Americana from Grand Rapids.

"Lady Americana is the mattress many local hotels use, and we sell those to anyone at competitive prices," Stewart said. "And it's made right here in the Midwest."

With their own trucks, VanDenBerg Furniture delivers throughout Kalamazoo, Portage, and Battle Creek with a delivery charge of $60.

"And should you need any service, something repaired or replaced, our service team is the best," Steward said. "Frankly, our quality is better than what you got at those big-name stores."

Remember, too—shopping local keeps your dollar in the local economy. It's just one more benefit to a wide range of options and excellent service.

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When the Sirens Sound

By Zinta Aistars

Photos Courtesy of NOAA

"Although the alert may not be a siren," said Mike Corfman, emergency management director at the Office of Emergency Management for Kalamazoo County, located at 1500 Lamont Avenue in Kalamazoo. "It will more likely be a beep or a buzz on your cell phone or television, or a warning coming through on your weather alert radio or a notice on social media. We don't have sirens anymore except in the city of Kalamazoo and Portage—not the counties."

The Kalamazoo County Office of Emergency Management, or OEM, is a division within the Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office. It is responsible for planning and coordinating an emergency management program for Kalamazoo County. From preparing and responding to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters, OEM also assists in recovery. They work with and share resources with nine other counties in Southwest Michigan.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (noaa.gov) within the U.S. Department of Commerce, "Each year, the United States averages some 10,000 thunderstorms, 5,000 floods, 1,300 tornadoes and two Atlantic hurricanes, as well as widespread droughts and wildfires. Weather, water and climate events, cause an average of approximately 650 deaths and $15 billion in damage per year and are responsible for some 90 percent of all presidentially-declared disasters."

It has become more important than ever to pay attention to disaster alerts and to be prepared when they happen.

"We send out different kinds of alerts depending on the type of disaster," said Corfman. "Most common are severe weather, high winds, and tornado warnings in this area. We get informed by central dispatch—that would be 911—and then we do a digital blast, send information to all cell phone providers, and then they send out alerts from their towers."

Corfman warns people not to call 911 when an alert comes through. "If it's not a personal emergency," he said, "know that dispatch is already very busy with the disaster at hand."

OEM uses a template that allows for 360 characters for the alerts. In that space, OEM includes the type of emergency, the time it is expected to begin and end, and short instructions on what to do, such as to seek shelter. If space allows, the alert may also include a link to a website, such as the National Weather Service at weather.gov, for more information.

Alerts may also include what are known as Amber Alerts, when someone is suspected of having been abducted. Those are usually regional or statewide. Chemical emergencies, such as toxic spills, are also alerted in the same manner. For emergencies that are contained within a smaller, specific area, such as a toxic spill, OEM is able to draw a boundary on a map that may be as small as a block or two for an alert to be sent out to that area only.

While almost everyone today owns a cell phone, OEM is aware that there are still a few people who rely on landlines. There are also a number of people who shut their cell phones off at night and may not hear an alert come through.

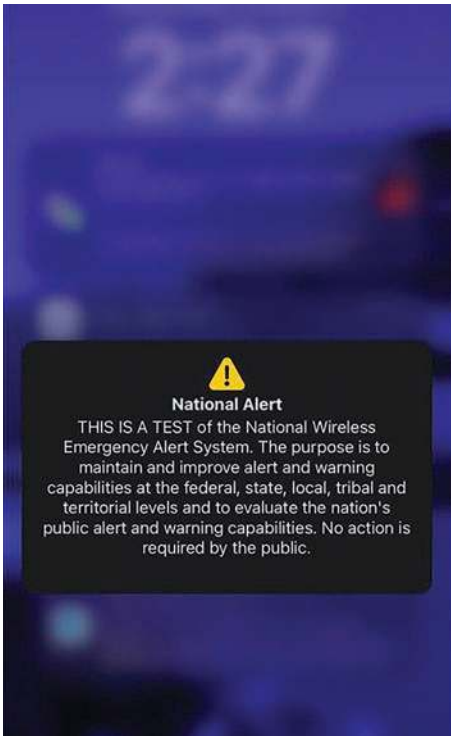
"That's why I strongly recommend that everyone have a weather alert radio in their home," Corfman said. "They are not very expensive, usually in the range of $40, and available at many stores or online at such sites like Amazon. A weather alert radio can be programmed for your specific county and, if you prefer, be set to sound only when an alert comes through. Or you can leave them on for your weather forecast."

For such emergencies as an active shooter, Corfman said alerts may be sent out, "but those types of incidents can happen so fast that by the time we could send out an alert, the incident is already over. When they happen on college campuses, the schools have their own alert systems that go out campus-wide."

BE PREPARED

Different emergencies can require different kinds of preparation. Corfman recommends that everyone have in their home what he calls a "go bag" or an emergency kit.

"You can find a lot of information on how to be prepared for any emergency on a site called ready.gov," he said.



Ready.gov has information on how to be prepared for floods, thunderstorms and lightning, advice for seniors or anyone with special needs, how to make a plan, and links to FEMA. The site also provides information about cybersecurity, how to help children through emergency situations, and other resources.

A BASIC EMERGENCY KIT INCLUDES:

- *Gallon of water for drinking and sanitation*
- *Several-day supply non-perishable food*
- *Battery-powered weather alert radio*
- *Flashlight*
- *First aid kit*
- *Extra batteries*
- *Whistle to signal for help*
- *Plastic sheeting and duct tape for sheltering in place*
- *Moist towelettes and plastic bags with ties for personal sanitation*
- *Wrench or pliers*
- *Manual can opener*
- *Local maps*
- *Cell phone with chargers and backup batteries*

Consider adding additional items for your particular needs, such as diapers with wipes and diaper rash cremes and formula for infants, prescription and non-prescription medicines, soap and hand sanitizer, pet food and extra water for pets, prescription eyeglasses and contact solution, matches in a waterproof container, feminine supplies, mess kits with utensils, fire extinguisher, cash or traveler's checks, change of clothing for different weather conditions, books and games, paper and pencils, and sleeping bags and blankets for each person in the household.

Check on this emergency kit from time to time for any expired items or anything that needs to be replaced. Food items should be stored in plastic or metal containers. Kits should be stored in safe places with everyone in the household aware of the location, and a second, smaller kit may be stored in your car and workplace with special attention for any prescription medicines you may need. At the workplace, consider also keeping a comfortable pair of shoes.

Talk to your family about an escape route from the house in case of fire or another emergency. Plan on a meeting spot so that you can quickly locate each other. Talk about how you will stay in communication with each other if you are separated. You may also wish to secure important documents in a fire-safe place or container.

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THROUGH AND WITHIN THE TREES

By Zinta Aistars
Feature Photography by Next Door Photos

It's all about the wood. A timber frame home on a wooded 2-acre plot with wood beams running through the great room, which has a wood ceiling—the Fraaza residence is a grand home with the warmth of a wood setting inside and out.

The home on Quartz Street in Kalamazoo, winner of the People's Choice Award in the 2023 Parade of Homes, gives the homeowners the ambiance of living in the country, even as they are just a few quick miles from downtown Kalamazoo.

"This is a second marriage for both of us, so we wanted a home—a 'forever home'—that is uniquely ours," Sue Fraaza said. "But when we looked at what was available in the market, we couldn't find anything we liked. Gordon and I went to the Parade of Homes in 2021. That's how we found Hostetler Custom Homes, and we began to work with them to build the home we wanted."

Sue Fraaza, an accountant, and Gordon Fraaza, an automotive business owner, have five children and five grandchildren between them. All children are grown, so they are now "empty nesters," but having a home large enough for family gatherings was one of their requirements when planning their build.

"And having a timber frame home with lots of wood was one of the things we wanted most," Sue Fraaza said. "The timber part of it was done by Riverbend Timber Framing from Blissfield, Michigan, and they did a wonderful job."

"The timber frame and the wood ceiling in the great room are one of my favorite features," Gordon Fraaza agreed.

Other asks for the Hostetler builders, the Fraazas said, were to have everything on one main level since they were planning on having this as their last home, well into their senior years.

"We wanted it all to be handicap-accessible," she said. "Just in case that became needed someday."

Karry Hostetler, owner and president of Hostetler Custom Homes, listened. The plans builders and homeowners agreed upon for the 3,104-square-foot home were unique.

"It was a fantastic build," Hostetler said. "But also challenging in terms of the land and the time. We wanted to get it finished in time for the Parade, so that was one part of the challenge. The other part was when we realized the land was mostly clay. We needed to bring in larger cranes and to set trusses. Clay is a difficult soil to build on."

Challenges aside, it was exciting to watch the house rise from a blueprint into reality. The main floor features a great room with 25-foot beamed ceilings, two bedrooms, two baths, a large kitchen with a T-shaped island to seat six, a walk-in pantry, formal dining room, and a laundry

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room. Although the basement is as yet unfinished, plans are in place for two more bedrooms, a kitchenette, and a large-screen movie room.

"When we talked through the plans for the house, one of my requests was to make room for a family heirloom China cabinet in our dining room," Sue said. "And I wanted a mud room coming in from the garage—and it's a large, six-car garage for Gordon, because he wanted the back for a workshop. He's very handy, and he is thinking about doing woodwork when he retires."

"My other favorite features are that kitchen island, large enough for everyone in our family to enjoy," Gordon said. "The fireplaces, one in the great room, and the other outside on the patio that backs up into the woods. And the dining room chandelier—it's from Venice and it picks up the different colors in the room."

Another favorite and practical feature, he said, are the two stairways to the basement. One comes down from the main living space, while the second comes down from the garage.

"We have saved thousands of steps going directly from the garage and have been able to keep the main level cleaner because of that second stairway," he said.

The kitchen is open to the great room and features Bremtown custom cabinetry in an almond stained glass finish and Taj Mahal granite countertops, an industrial-size stove with six burners and a griddle, and copper sink with antique bronze hardware.

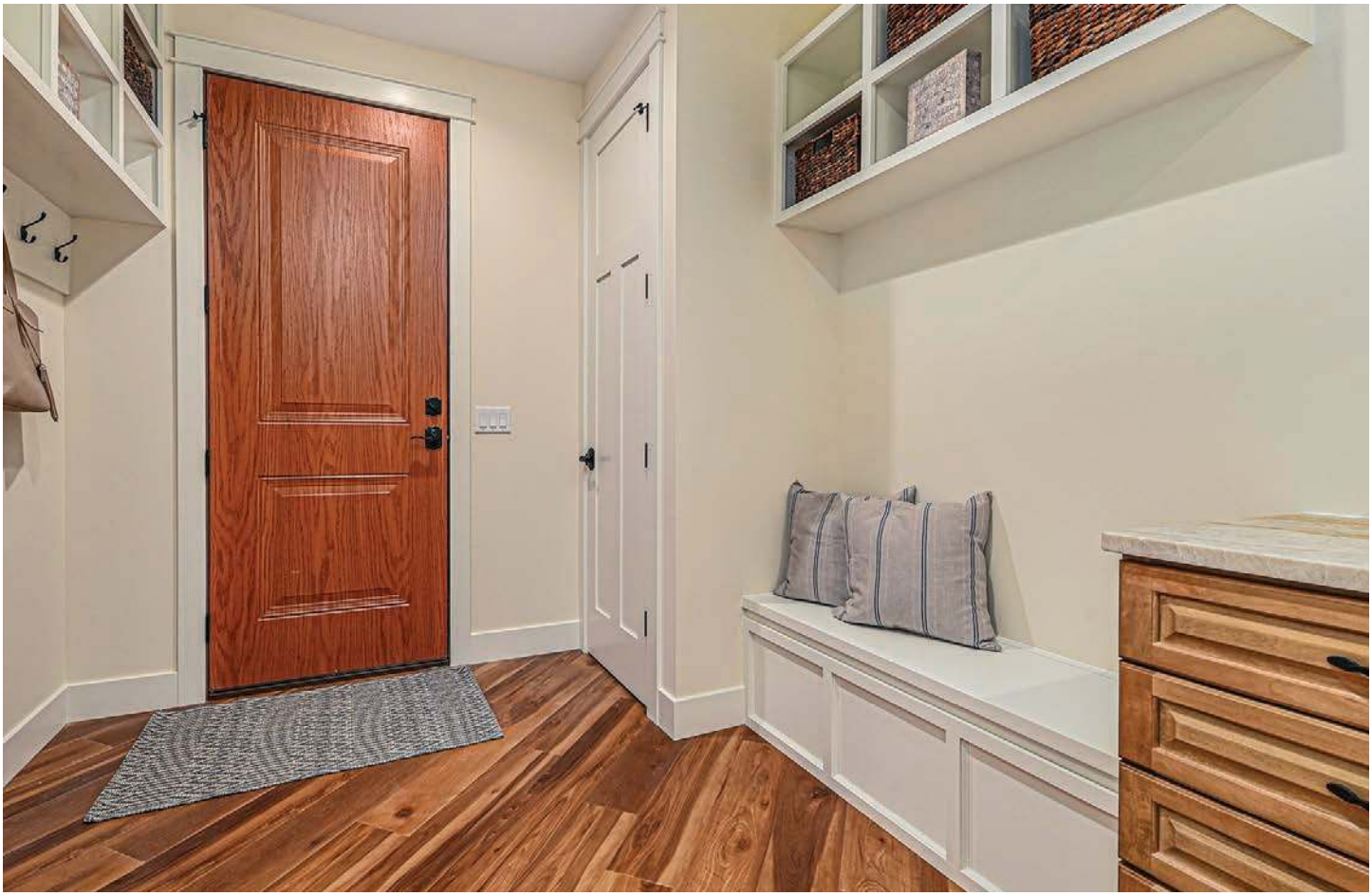
"The kitchen also features an innovative automatic door that quietly rolls up creating a pass through from the kitchen into the pantry," said Hostetler. "That was a first for us."

"Neither Gordon nor I are big cooks," Sue admitted. "But that might change as we retire. We know kitchens tend to be where people gather, however, so we wanted to the island to be 10-feet long with that 5-foot 'T' extension in the middle. A large island means we can have buffet-style meals for guests.

Out of the kitchen and into their oasis of a master bedroom, the Fraazas enjoy large windows looking out on their woods. The master en suite has double sinks, a linen closet, a Jacuzzi tub, and heated tile floors.

"The bathrooms have tiled floors and shower by Howland Tile and Flooring out of Richland," Sue said. "They did a marvelous job. As for the rest of the house, we have vinyl luxury plank that matches the timber, carpeting in the bedrooms and great room."

As for advice to others considering a custom build, Sue added: "Have a clear idea of what you want but be flexible about those little tweaks along the way. Find a trustworthy builder and be prepared for changes along the way. Know your budget, but know, too, where to adjust—sometimes that extra here and there is worth it."



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Repair, Redecorate, or Renovate

By Zinta Aistars

Photos Courtesy of ADIDA, LLC

While many interchange the terms of repair, redecorate, or renovate, these are actually very different approaches to the upkeep or your home. They can also affect your wallet with very different costs.

To repair means to fix something that is broken. Repairs are the way we keep our homes in pristine condition. If some part of the home is broken—a shattered window, a split tile, a loose door, a furnace on the blink—these are items that can be repaired. Costs depend on what it is that is broken, whether it is a do-it-yourself project or one that requires professional help. Warranties or home repair insurance can help in covering such costs.

To redecorate means to change the appearance of your home or a part of it. It can mean bringing in new furnishings or repainting walls in a different color or putting in new flooring or carpeting—or even just changing the artwork that hangs on the walls. Costs vary greatly with the type of redecorating and how much of it is done, whether a room or an entire home.

To renovate means to renew or make over again, changing the structure of a home. It can mean removing walls, adding new rooms, or otherwise changing the space a home occupies. This is often the most expensive option—but not always—of home improvement and usually requires professional construction and even the services of engineers and architects.

"When you are considering making a change to your home, start by looking at your budget," said Dian Latora, owner of Cork Lane Decorating Center. "How much change can you afford and is it necessary? Other considerations may be waiting time because renovations could mean you should be prepared to wait, while redecorating can be done much more quickly."

Cork Lane Decorating Center, a home décor service established in 1979, offers a complete home decorating service that can include window treatments, furniture, bedding, wallpaper, flooring and carpeting, and decorating accessories. Latora visits the home to give a free consultation to offer ideas and inspiration.

"I can help with your strategy," she said. "If you are planning on new furniture, order that first, because it can take the longest to arrive—it's been running about four months these days. If needed, line up any contractors in the meantime if you are planning on painting or putting in wallpaper or flooring."

Depending on how much redecorating is planned, it could take three to four weeks to complete a project.

"Other changes can be small but can make a big difference," Latora said. "Many homes are stuck in the 90s. You might want to switch out faucets and lighting, paint a vanity or cabinetry, and that can be enough for an updated look."

Redecorated: Painted spindles and railing of the stairs, accent wall with art work, new chair

Latora said primary bedrooms sometimes get forgotten because they are not usually visible to guests, but adding an accent wall with paint, wallpaper, or shiplap, or changing the bedding can quickly and easily freshen the look.

"Don't sacrifice your haven," Latora said. "You'll find that one change often leads to another. For floors, you can install luxury plank over old flooring. Repaint the bottom of a kitchen island in a different color or change the backsplash. There are many fixes you can do without having a big budget."

MAKING YOUR HOME YOUR OWN—AGAIN

Valentina Velkova, owner and president of Adida, LLC, located in Portage, has specialized in unique designs for residential projects for three decades. She provides interior design and remodeling for existing or new construction, specializing in lake homes.

"It's all about the homeowner's budget, needs, desires, and time," Velkova said. "Redecorating is cosmetic work, but renovating can be as small as one room or as extensive as the entire home. And they can go hand in hand. You can't remodel a home without having to redecorate it, too."

Older homes, Velkova pointed out, were built with smaller rooms, while newer construction trends are for more open space. Someone wanting to renovate and update an older home may want to remove walls, and that's where a structural engineer comes in—to ensure that no support walls are removed, and the home remain stable.

"If the house has good bones and good flow, or maybe you just love the property and want to stay, renovating can

Bathroom renovation

be less expensive than building a new home," Velkova said. "But if the renovation is extensive, it can also end up being even more expensive than building a new home."

Consulting an expert design service such as Adida, LLC, can help determine final costs of a project and help the homeowners make those decisions of which option to choose.

"There's also the consideration of a difficult housing market," Velkova said. "So more homeowners are choosing to redecorate and renovate where they live now."

Some renovation work, she said, can involve making a home more accessible for the changing needs of seniors as homeowners age—wider doorways, walk-in showers, grab bars, and similar changes. Sometimes people may want to add another bedroom for more comfortable sleeping.

Velkova's expertise begins with building a relationship with the homeowners to learn about their personal style. She often presents more than one design so that homeowners can make choices to suit them, "but I never insist on my ideas over yours."

"Artwork can also be a part of your redecorating, and that, too, can get expensive, depending on your choices," Velkova said. "Art can also be about adding an accent wall or hanging photography."

Other updates and changes can include installing technology, converting to a "smart home" with modern conveniences. Adding an arch or bringing in new appliances into a kitchen and painting cabinetry and putting in new hardware can create dramatic changes.

"Every client and every project is unique," Velkova said. "That's why I make the time to get to know my clients, so that the design reflects their uniqueness."

adida.design | 269.599.6050 | Valentina@adida.design

The Kalamazoo Nature Center
It's more than you think!

By Barbara Fisher
Photo Courtesy of The Kalamazoo Nature Center

Fall, winter, spring and summer; it's always the right season to connect with nature. The area is rich with places to explore natural settings on our own or with family or friends. Places such as the Kal-Haven trail, the Fort Custer Recreation Area, the Allegan State Game Area, the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park, the Armintrout-Milbocker Nature Preserve and the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

What is the nonprofit Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC)? More than you think!

"Founded on October 31, 1960, KNC is recognized by its peers as one of the top nature centers in the country and has expanded to include 1,100 acres of wooded, rolling countryside five miles north of Kalamazoo, Michigan."

Get outside and move your feet! KNC offers over 14 miles of hiking trails that take guests through woods, wetlands and prairies. Cross country skis and snowshoes are welcome during the winter but trails are not groomed. Trail maps may be downloaded from the KNC website or picked up from the Welcome Station or Visitor Center onsite. Unsure of what the weather might be at the Nature Center? It has a weather station! Check the forecast from the KNC website. For the more competitive among us, join the KNC Hiking Spree. Special medallions are awarded with the completion of various hikes. Trails are open 9 am - 6 pm daily. Guests and members will find the Visitor Center open from 9 am - 5 pm Monday-Saturday and 1 - 5 pm Sunday.

Coming up on Friday, November 10 (6:30 - 9 pm) is the Candlelight Night Hike. Walk the illuminated forest trail with family, friends or treat yourself to a unique experience. Register by November 9; day of registrations will be accepted but the cost is higher.

During daylight hours, take a self-guided sculpture tour through the Arboretum instead of a hike or take in the Glen Vista Gallery, a space for artists to exhibit nature-related artwork.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 2 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm) for the Buy Local Art & Gift Fair. More than 40 local artisans grace the KNC Visitor Center with creative displays and top-quality work. This event is open to the public with free admission. Lisa Panich, Director of Marketing & Communications, says, "We are so happy to offer this free festive holiday event, now in its 13th season, to our community. The Buy Local Art & Gift Fair celebrates our talented local artisans surrounded by the beauty of the winter landscape."

Become a member of the Kalamazoo Nature Center or give a gift of a membership. Membership provides yearly access to the Visitor Center, trails, exhibits, programs and events with free admission. Members receive the quarterly Nature Center News and the eNewsletter, a 10% discount at the Trailhead Gifts & Books gift shop, reduced program fees, reciprocal membership to over 120 nature centers in the US and Canada, voting privileges at the annual members' meeting and invitations to member-only events. Membership for the month of October includes free admission to participating area organizations through the Southwest Michigan Cultural Membership Exchange, which includes such organizations as the Air Zoo, Binder Park Zoo, Gilmore Car Museum, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts and Kellogg Bird Sanctuary.

For youth there are a number of special programs and series including camps in the summer, spring and winter. For ages 4 through the 8th grades there are 8 weekly sessions of summer camp running June – August. Register early for those early bird discounts! Spring camp is typically held during the week of area schools' spring breaks and offer daily activities and age-appropriate themes;

Kalamazoo Nature Center

registration opens February 14. And lastly, registration for winter camp opens on November 1. Kids can head out during winter break for daily activities including sledding and making snow slime on Winter Wonderland Day.

And that's not all! KNC offers programs and exhibits. Justin Davies, KNC Creative Director, says, "Our new revolving exhibits are designed to showcase our conservation work in ways that combine art with science and self-discovery." "Fire, central to human evolution and our relationship with the environment, is both an ancient force in our history and of pressing modern significance. By centering traditional indigenous fire knowledge and KNC's participation in contemporary prescribed fire practices, this exhibit — offered in partnership with the Lake States Fire Science Consortium (lakestatesfires-ci.net) — will help visitors explore the role that fire disturbance plays in supporting healthy ecosystems and the relationship humans have had with fire over millennia. A key feature of the exhibit is artist Ethan Turpin's immersive art installation, Walk Into Wildland Fire."

Captivated yet with the possibilities? Just 10 minutes from downtown Kalamazoo, KNC offers both indoor and outdoor venues for occasions such as weddings, memorials, corporate functions, graduations or retreat. Be extraordinary. Check out the Timber-Framed Barn Package (seats 160) and the Garden & Glen Wedding Package (complete with an inclement weather indoor plan—just in case).

What are you waiting for? If you haven't checked out the Kalamazoo Nature Center lately, plan a visit and connect with nature. (Please visit naturecenter.org for more complete information.)

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March 8–10

Kalamazoo County Expo Center

SAVE THE DATE!

Whether your home is in need of an update, a full renovation, or you're just looking for some inspiration — the Kalamazoo Home & Garden Expo has something for everyone. Meet with local businesses in outdoor living, landscaping, home automation, security, remodeling, design and more — you won't want to miss what's new in home improvement.

Tickets available online at ***kalamazoohomeexpo.com***

Advance tickets $8. Door tickets $10.

- Friday is Veteran's & Senior Discount Day
- Saturday is Family Fun Day
- Sunday is Educators and First Responders Day

Children ages 12 and under are always free!

Kalamazoo In Bloom

Celebrating 40 years of flowers!

Kalamazoo in Bloom continues celebrating its 40th anniversary at the 2024 Home & Garden Expo. You won't want to miss their beautiful display of locally grown flowers and plants.

Index of Advertisers

ADIDA, LLC	26
Cork Lane Decorating	24
DeHaan Remodeling Specialists	14
Flair Interiors	10
The Furnace Guy	10
Hannapel	3
Home Builders Association	29
Hoogstraten Builders	8
Infusion by Etna	2
J&J Glass	10
JB Printing	18, 28
Linda Hoard Photography	30
Metzger's Heating & Cooling	28
Migala Carpet One	15
Modderman Builders, LLC	12
Nieboer Heating & Cooling	12
Pennings & Sons	24
Portage Glass & Mirror	8
Premier Concrete Coatings	31
Sackett Flooring	6
Sandstone Creation	8
Spartan Insulation	14
TMR Builders	32
Vlietstra Bros. Pools & Spas	12

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