

# HOME & GARDEN

SEVERNA PARK VOICE

March 2019



## LANDMARK ROOFING [Page 12](#)

For the team at Landmark Roofing, it's about more than improving houses. Giving back to the community is a major part of this company's business philosophy.

## PEST CONTROL [Page 5](#)

Reduce the standing water in your yard to control mosquito breeding.

## FENCE & DECK [Page 7](#)

You don't need a huge space to create an outdoor paradise.

## HARDSCAPING [Page 16](#)

Unilock pavers might be the hardscaping option you've been waiting for.





MILLERSVILLE/SEVERNA PARK

# Home & Garden Expo

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# Home Expo Comes To Millersville

The Millersville/Severna Park Home Expo will feature more than 80 companies showcasing landscaping, kitchen and bath, decking, fencing, countertops, tile, home energy systems, window treatments, roofing, waterproofing, heating and air plus, additions and remodeling, whole house design and build, sunrooms, closet and counter organization, adaptable solutions for seniors and more — all in one accessible location at the intersection of Benfield Boulevard and Interstate 97.

Home expos are a great opportunity for patrons to meet directly with companies, get ideas and see new products all in one location. Many companies that specialize in home improvement don't have retail storefronts that are easy to get to, and attending expos simplifies the process for the homeowner, eliminating hours and hours in the car driv-



ing to different parts of town, or countless hours in home appointments with companies only to discover that company is just not right for you. The internet is good for information, but nothing beats the face-to-face interaction of an expo to give homeowners a sense of a company's

capabilities and a comfort level in dealing with that company.

This year, guests can meet Anthony Carrino and John Colaneri from HGTV's "Kitchen Cousins," "Cousins on Call," "Cousins Undercover" and "America's Most Desperate Kitchens." Their entertaining and informative seminars

help homeowners take the mystery out of the process of starting and completing any level of home improvement project from a simple remodel to major addition and home makeover. Guests will also be able to participate in seminars with arborists from Bartlett Tree, have antiques appraised by Todd Peenstra of Peenstra Antiques, and sample wine from local wineries. Also, Plant Nite and Paint Nite will provide free workshops.

Tickets are available at the door. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for active and retired military members. Full show information including seminar times is available by visiting [www.midatlanticexpos.com](http://www.midatlanticexpos.com). The Benfield Sports Center is located at 1031 Benfield Boulevard in Millersville.

Ample adjacent parking is available. Food will be served at the event, and the facility is handicap-accessible. ■



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The MWT was recently ranked by HomeLight.com in the Top 1% of all Real Estate Agents Nationwide in the above categories.

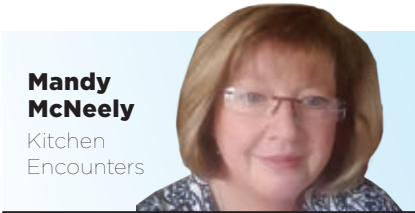
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# What's Going On Behind Door One?



Once upon a time, a kitchen cabinet was a square box with a shelf or two, maybe a drawer. How things have changed to help us organize our kitchens better!

When designing a new kitchen, designers look to improve functionality and storage for clients. The design should help you tackle and tame the myriad items you need but don't always want to see. For example, trashcans – we all need them, but who wants to see them in your beautiful new space. Why not use one of the kitchen cupboards to hide it? A rollout drawer can be adapted to take trash, recycling and even



composting bins. Spice racks can be so useful. They use up a small space but keep everything together. It's popular to take kitchen cabinets up to the ceiling. This provides extra storage space, but how do you reach everything if you're not 6 feet 6 inches tall? More and more cabinetmakers are now using pull-down shelves inside of tall cabinets where a hydraulic ac-

tion brings the shelving down to eye level and pushes easily back into the cabinet, eliminating the need to keep step stools in the kitchen.

After purchasing a countertop, who wants to clutter the beautiful look with small kitchen appliances on the surface? Why not incorporate an appliance lift rack. It's perfect for your large mixer or food processor that you regularly need access to but don't always want to see. The appliance fits onto a shelf in a lower cupboard and then pulls out of the cabinet to counter height when you need to use it. An appliance garage is another way to keep surfaces tidy. A roll-up door meets the countertop to hide everything behind it, but it leaves your small appliances readily accessible when needed. Knives are another item often seen on a countertop. A big wooden block may not

always fit in with the aesthetics of your kitchen so why not use a drawer insert especially produced to hold your kitchen knives or a two-tier insert that also holds your flatware.

One modern feature designers are incorporating into kitchens is a charging drawer. An electrical outlet is installed at the back of a drawer so devices can be plugged in. Imagine all your phones, tablets and iPads charging together in one drawer. How convenient!

*The certified designers at Kitchen Encounters can add so much functionality to your design, from rollout trays and Lazy Susans to large drawers and hidden dog bowls. Why not visit the Kitchen Encounters showroom in Annapolis and see its new display. These and many more items are featured in a newly installed kitchen.* ■

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# Helpful Hints For Homeowners To Reduce Mosquitoes

**Kendra Burnett**  
Mosquito Squad  
of Annapolis



We may not love all of the rain and wetness that has been inundating our area this past year, but we know of at least one insect that is: mosquitoes. Mosquitoes require standing water for their eggs to hatch. They can hatch in places like gutters, plant container saucers, toys, buckets and small ruts. Although not all water sources can be eliminated, homeowners can do their part in reducing the standing water on their property.

Homeowners can follow these tips or seven T's for mosquito control:

**TIP.** A small bottle cap filled with water holds enough water for mos-

quitoes to breed. Since mosquitoes breed in standing water, the elimination of standing water decreases a mosquito's breeding ground. The biggest offenders are bird baths, play sets with tire swings, tree houses, portable fireplaces and pits, and corrugated drainage piping. After every rain event, homeowners can walk around the yard and tip over containers holding water and drain piping.

**TOSS.** Toss that yard trash, bag up those clippings and leaves, and make sure firewood is stacked neatly. Build or install a firewood holder to be sure that your firewood pile does not trap water.

**TURN.** Walk the yard every few days and turn over items that could hold water and trash. Look for children's portable sandboxes, slides or plastic toys; underneath and around downspouts; in plant saucers, empty pots, light fixtures and dog water bowls.



**TARP REMOVAL.** Many homeowners have tarps or covers on items residing in their outdoor spaces. If not stretched taut, they are holding water. Use bungee cords to keep tarps tight.

**TREAT.** Use a mosquito elimination barrier treatment around the home and yard. Using a barrier treatment at home reduces the need for using DEET-containing bug spray on the body.

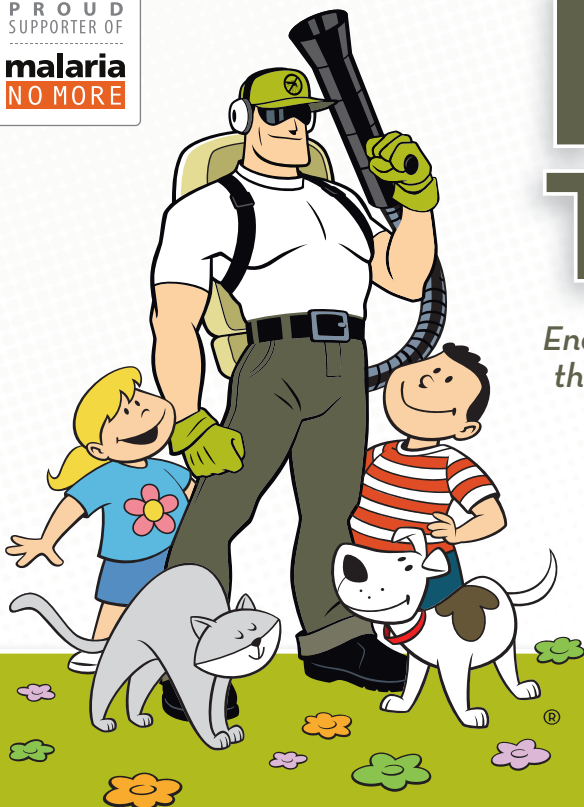
**TAKE CARE.** Home maintenance can be a deciding factor in property values and mosquito bites. Regularly clean out gutters and make sure the downspout is attached properly. Re-grade areas

where water stands more than a few hours, and make sure that all fallen branches and hollow trees or logs are removed from the property.

**TEAM UP.** Despite taking all precautions in your own home, talking with neighbors is a key component to mosquito and tick control. Education and knowledge can be used not only on your own yard but also on open spaces and community owned areas.

*With more than 200 franchise locations nationwide, Mosquito Squad specializes in eliminating mosquitoes and ticks from outdoor living spaces, allowing homeowners to enjoy their yards. Kendra Burnett, local owner of Mosquito Squad of Annapolis, has been fighting the bite in Anne Arundel County for 10 years. For more information, visit [www.mosquitosquad.com](http://www.mosquitosquad.com) or call 410-317-8385.*

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# Have A Small Outdoor Space? Here Are Five Ways To Create Big Impact

## Sarah Ditto

Marketing Manager  
Fence & Deck  
Connection



**W**ho says you need a lot of space to create an outdoor oasis?

With quality decking materials and the right furnishings, you can turn less into more. Here are five space-saving decking tips to build your own compact paradise.

### 1. Use the right materials and design

Start with engineered woods. They have the beauty of natural woods, but they last for decades and won't require routine maintenance. Consider board layout: deck boards that run parallel

to your home stop the eye and make the space look smaller. Boards that run diagonally tease the eye away from the deck and into the yard. Also consider color. Light-colored deck boards have a similar impact, making the deck feel a bit larger than one with a darker palette.

### 2. Re-imagine railings

The wrong choice of railing can make a deck feel closed off, especially in a small space. To keep yours feeling open and inviting, choose a design and color that won't overpower the deck, such as black aluminum railing or cable-style railings. For decks lower to the ground, consider built-in planters or benches instead of railing, which will eliminate the need for extra furniture and will open up the layout.



### 3. Go vertical

Tall furnishings can draw the eye upward and make a deck look and feel more spacious. Try outfitting your deck with a wall garden, screen, arbor or pergola.

### 4. Illuminate!

Lighting can create a unique, warm ambiance in a smaller deck. To make better use of

limited space, hang bistro lights or opt for lighting solutions that are integrated into the railings and stair risers.

### 5. Don't over-furnish

The right mix of furniture can keep your space clutter-free. Multifunctional chairs double as tables, and benches double as storage. If company's coming, bring out folding chairs as needed. A small outdoor rug can add color without cramping your style. No space is too small!

*Fence & Deck Connection can help you reinvent any outdoor space, big or small, while extending your usable living space. The company offers several options in composite and PVC deck materials, and can provide guidance in creating an outdoor getaway for you!*

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# Should You Consider A HELOC?



**George Ensenat**  
Branch Manager  
Hamilton Bank  
of Pasadena

If you're searching for a trustworthy and reasonable way to consolidate your credit card debt, it can be tricky to find something that helps to get your balance under control without high interest rates. With credit card rates on the rise and sitting at an average record high of 17.57 percent, now is the time to investigate your options and consider a HELOC to consolidate your credit card debt.

**Should You Consolidate Your Credit Card Debt?**

Carrying high balances on multiple credit cards can rapidly become an out-of-control cycle. You make monthly pay-



ments to slowly chip away at the balance, but then it goes back up once interest and other purchases are added. Consolidation is a winning solution for many people who are struggling to pay off debt in the wake of increasingly high interest rates.

By consolidating your debt, you can make a single payment instead of multiple ones. Juggling multiple cards means you have numerous payment due dates, minimum payment amounts and interest rates.

Putting your debt onto one single loan can simplify things and make it easier to focus on paying off the entire balance. You will also only be subject to a single interest rate. While monthly payments might be higher, the convenience of a single payment to make is often worth it.

**How Can A HELOC Help?**

A Home Equity Line of Credit works fairly similarly to a credit card. You will be given a line of credit up to a certain limit, and you can borrow an amount at any time up to your maximum limit. You will pay off what you owe to the HELOC, and in return, you can regain part of that credit line to borrow in the future. HELOCs are great if you want to consolidate your credit card debt because they allow you to save a great deal on interest charges and use the credit line for anything, unlike

other loans. However, you should also know that HELOCs have a few potential downsides. Your interest will not be tax-deductible if you use it toward debt consolidation. The rates of the HELOC are also typically adjustable and not fixed, which could be either good or bad depending on your current interest rates and your payoff timetable.

*Hamilton Bank works with numerous customers who are struggling to find the best method to pay down credit card debt, and the staff is happy to help you explore your options. Hamilton Bank is committed to providing customers with the best customer experience possible. If you are interested in learning more about debt consolidation options, visit your closest Hamilton Bank branch or call 410-823-4510. ■*



## Dreaming of a New Kitchen?

*A home equity line of credit makes it possible.*

If you've been thinking about a kitchen or bathroom update, major home renovation, new appliances or consolidating debt on high interest credit cards, now is the time to consider a home equity line of credit.

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\*Home Equity Line of Credit Promotional Rate available up to 80% combined loan to value on single family owner occupied residential properties: excludes investment property, second homes and vacation homes, co-ops, single or double wide manufactured homes. Any increase or decrease in the index will result in an increase or decrease in the APR and monthly payment amounts (but the APR will never exceed 24%). Relationship pricing is available for the non-promotional rate which may be discounted ¼% for customers that maintain an active account or other loans with Bank. Monthly payments are interest only (and will not reduce balance) for initial 10 year draw period, followed by principal and interest payments during 20 year repayment period. Interest may be tax deductible; consult your tax advisor. Appraisal required for accounts greater than or equal to \$250,000. Minimum account size is \$10,000 and maximum account size is \$1,000,000. Applicants must successfully meet bank's Home Equity Line of Credit underwriting standards. Property insurance required. Closing costs apply and typically range from \$650.00 - \$1,650.00 (for amounts between \$10,000 and \$99,999.99) and \$1,650.00 - \$12,755.00 (for amounts of \$100,000 or more), but up to \$2,500.00 may be waived. Not all customers will qualify for this promotional offer. Alternative rates and terms are available. Promotion available for a limited time and may be withdrawn at any time.



# How To Keep Your Chimney Healthier

## Chuck Roydhouse

Clean Sweep of  
Anne Arundel  
County



When it comes to maintaining a healthy chimney, regular maintenance is key. Inspections, sweepings, and regular repairs can make all the difference when it comes to extending the life of your system.

### Keeping Your Brickwork In Good Shape

Lots of things contribute to a sturdy structure. Preventing leaks and excess moisture plays a big role in keeping your masonry strong, as does addressing cracks, crumbling, and other damages in a timely manner. Your brickwork needs to stay strong in order to

provide the lasting support your system requires, so it's best to protect it from the beginning.

Waterproofing plays a big role in this. Your brickwork is absorbent, so protecting it from rain and bad weather will make a big difference in how well it functions over time. Unlike paints and sealers that you get from the store, the products professionals use are vapor permeable, ensuring your masonry system can vent out previously absorbed moisture and repel moisture from your chimney. Addressing repairs and other problems before putting your appliance to use — whether it is your furnace, gas fireplace, wood stove or wood-burning fireplace — will make a big impact on your system's functionality, too. Using your chimney/appliance that has damage could put your entire home and family at risk of experiencing chimney fires or deadly

carbon monoxide leaks. It's not worth taking any chances, so invest in care right away.

### Keeping Your Home Safer

Avoiding regular maintenance and repair work can lead to some dangerous scenarios down the line. Carbon monoxide exposure is one risk you and your loved ones can face when a system doesn't get professional attention from time to time. Carbon monoxide poisoning is deadly when not treated right away, and it's colorless and odorless nature make it hard to detect.

You'll also be better protected from chimney fires and house fires when you allow our technicians the chance to inspect your chimney annually. They'll spot creosote build-up, clogs, deterioration and any other issues that need to be resolved. Creosote accumulation

and nests are known for causing chimney fires, and clogs and excess debris can affect airflow and draft. Insight from a qualified Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) certified and National Fireplace Institute certified chimney professional is beneficial and could save you from a lot of expensive repair work down the line!

### Schedule Your Inspection Today

Now is a great time for spring cleaning your chimney. You and your family members deserve that peace of mind knowing everything is running well throughout the months ahead. Count on our crew today!

*Let Clean Sweep of Anne Arundel County make your chimney healthy! For more information, visit [www.cleansweepaa.com](http://www.cleansweepaa.com) or call 410-571-4244.*

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# What Severna Park Homebuyers Look For

**Steven Murphy**  
Berkshire Hathaway  
PenFed Realty



According to survey results from NAHB (National Association of Home Builders), laundry rooms and energy-saving features such as Energy Star appliances, windows and whole house certification are among the most wanted home features.

Nearly 4,000 homebuyers participated in the survey — those who have either recently purchased a home or plan to purchase a home within the next three years — ranking 175 features based on how essential they are to a home-purchasing decision.

The top 10 features also included home-storage needs, such as garage storage and walk-in pantries, as well as hardwood flooring,

a patio and exterior lighting.

NAHB's survey includes key information on types and location of homes desired by buyers, including generational differences. Suburbs are the most desirable home location (64 percent), followed by a rural setting (24 percent) and the central city (11 percent). Millennials are the most likely to want to buy a home in a central city (23 percent), compared to Gen X buyers (11 percent), baby boomers (8 percent) or seniors (3 percent).

## Kitchen And Bath Trends To Watch

According to NAHB's survey, 86 percent of homebuyers prefer their kitchen and dining room to be completely or partially open. Top finishes include stainless steel appliances (67 percent), granite or natural stone kitchen countertops (57 percent) and white or light

kitchen cabinetry (32 percent). White upon white is the new style that is emerging both for the kitchen and bathroom in terms of cabinets and countertops, as well as gray on white.

Other rising trends include farmhouse styles incorporating ample amounts of wood; engineered quartz countertops for color flexibility; vinyl and resilient flooring, especially for aging in place; wireless controls, and open interior and exterior spaces in the kitchen; and higher-end fixture installations in the bathroom, such as wall-mounted sinks, faucets and toilets.

People today want neighborhoods that offer beautiful home options including 10-foot ceilings, large open basements with high ceilings, beautiful kitchen cabinetry and natural countertop selections, fireplaces, energy-efficient kitchen and laundry appliances, large mud rooms and rear main-

tenance-free composite decks. They also want homes with larger storage spaces and abundant garage space.

Homeowners may also want to think about enjoying full water privileges: the neighborhood's boat slips, fishing pier, boat ramp, and large waterfront pavilion area for community and private gatherings while enjoying swimming, fishing, crabbing, paddleboarding, kayaking or any other water sport of choice as well as playgrounds and fire pits.

New homebuyers are most often families. Consider the needs and wants of children, pets and parents. Is the community within walking distance to schools? Is it close to community pools and shopping facilities?

Visit [www.thecovesp.com](http://www.thecovesp.com) to schedule a tour of the model home and learn more about The Cove of Severna Park! ■



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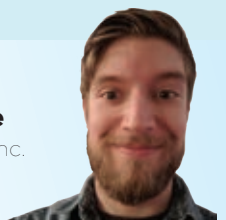
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# Get Your Lawn Ready For Spring

**Geoff Gohlke**

On The Green Inc.



Spring will be here before you know it. Planning can give you a head start on your spring lawn care, helping your lawn bounce back from winter dormancy as fast as possible while giving you that lush green lawn that you deserve.

## FOUR EASY STEPS TO GET YOUR LAWN READY FOR SPRING

### Spring Cleaning

Buried under that snow is a lawn ready to wake up and start growing again. The first step you'll need to take is spring cleaning. Lawn debris like sticks and leaves are perfect habitats for pests and



can cause your lawn to succumb to fungus and disease, so it's best to remove these hazards as soon as possible. This will be the perfect time to check your gutters as well. Make sure there aren't any leaves causing blockage in your gutters; this can lead to pooling water, a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

### Compost

Don't just burn or toss those leaves! Starting a compost bin

is a great way to give back to your lawn, making it healthier and easier to maintain! The many benefits of adding compost to your lawn include:

- Conditioning the soil by adding nutrients
- Better moisture and nutrient retention
- Beneficial organisms are added to the soil

Leaves and grass clippings are just a few things you can add to your compost bin. You can also

add shrub and tree prunings, egg shells, coffee grounds, wood ash, shredded paper, shredded cardboard and much more! In a year, you will have some nutrient-rich compost to add to your lawn and landscaped beds. If you're looking to get the benefits of compost but don't have a compost bin, you can purchase fine compost to spread over your lawn.

### Get Ahead Of The Weeds

Don't wait for the weeds to overrun your lawn, get ahead of the problem. In the early spring, when your lawn is beginning to wake up, the weeds are waking up as well. By using a pre-emergent weed control, you will be able to stop the weeds from growing before they even start to germinate. This will allow your grass to grow lush and green without having to compete with weeds for nutrients, sunlight or water.

» **Continued on page 20**



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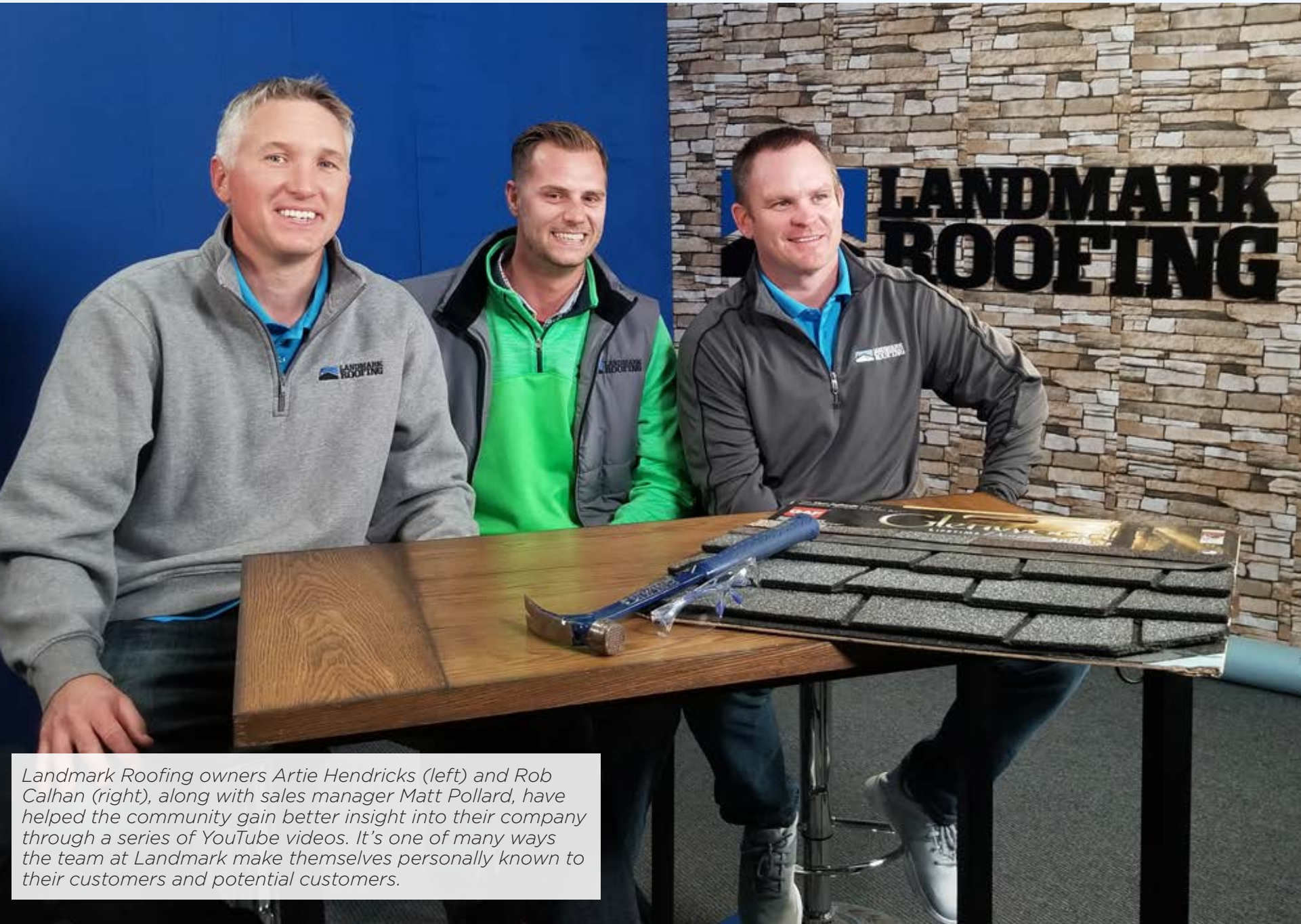
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# Landmark Roofing Makes Giving Back



*Landmark Roofing owners Artie Hendricks (left) and Rob Calhan (right), along with sales manager Matt Pollard, have helped the community gain better insight into their company through a series of YouTube videos. It's one of many ways the team at Landmark make themselves personally known to their customers and potential customers.*

**By Dylan Roche**

“Always leave a place better than you found it.” It’s a simple philosophy, but it’s one that guides Landmark Roofing above and beyond its daily business operations on roofs, gutters, sidings and windows for Anne Arundel County residents. Landmark aims to make the community it serves – where its customers

call home, and where its owners call home – a little better. Owners Artie Hendricks and Rob Calhan, along with the rest of their team, know that this is what sets their company apart from others. Their customers are getting a good product at a good price, and they’re being served by good people.

As Hendricks always puts it, “We live here; we work here;

we’re going to be here. We want to let people know that they can trust us on their roof. We want to be those go-to guys.”

In keeping with that mission, Landmark Roofing makes giving back to the community a major component of its business. As Calhan says, it’s something they do because they can. “We like giving back,” he explained. “It works hand in hand. As the

homeowners choose us to provide a service for them, we provide a service to the community as well.”

Over the years, the Landmark team has volunteered its time and other resources for such projects as leaf removal and playground cleanup at Severna Park Elementary, repairing a bike ramp along the B&A Trail, fixing the baby pool at North



# ck A Major Part Of Being In Business

Severna Park Pool, and donating to such causes as the Severna Park Community Center gala, the Strike Out Cancer concert at Severna Park Lanes, the Green Hornets, the new scoreboard at Severna Park High School, and many others. Members of the team also volunteer their own time to coaching youth athletics.

But the biggest charitable cause that Landmark Roofing leads is its annual roof giveaway. The concept is simple: Landmark invites members of the community to nominate a deserving someone for a free new roof, either because that person does so much to give back to the community or because that person is undergoing some kind of hardship. The only requirement for nominees is that they be homeowners in Anne Arundel County and be in need of a new roof.

This year's recipient was the Keiser family. As Christina Keiser explained, she and her family have been strained emotionally and financially while daughter Maddie battles cancer. When Keiser and her husband realized their roof was leaking, it was a problem they were not prepared to deal with. So when she got the call from Hendricks, Calhan and the rest of the team at Landmark to let her know she would be receiving a new roof — completely free, no strings attached — it was overwhelming.

"They are the most amazing company that I have ever known," she said. "They are the sweetest guys I've ever had the opportunity to talk with. I can't even believe they are giving away a full roof — that's a huge deal. You can tell they care and want to give back to the community."

Keiser shared that having a sick child brings with it many fears and worries. Knowing that her roof did not have to be one of those worries was a huge relief. More importantly, it reassured her that there were people

who cared about her. "The support that we've gotten from the community and from Landmark restores your faith in humanity," she said. "You feel really alone when your kid gets sick like this, but this makes you feel like you're not fighting alone."

The opportunity to help people like the Keisers is a huge reward for the team at Landmark. "It feels great to be part of this project," said Scott Murchake, Landmark's lead project manager. "I really like seeing the look of satisfaction on their faces when we put these roofs on for them. They're so grateful for it. To hear the stories, see the people and their reactions to it at the end of the day. It's just an amazing thing to be part of here at Landmark."

Customers know that the team behind Landmark Roofing has more than certifications and experience. Its staff is dedicated to taking care of customers as if they were personal friends. It starts with the warm welcome customers receive from receptionist Tanya Lucas as soon as they come in the door, and then continues throughout the entire process thanks to the care and attention of general manager Shannon Dee, sales manager Matt Pollard, production manager Scott Murchake and repair/service manager Matthew Feather, not to mention the team's many other members.

Those who want to learn more about what sets Landmark Roofing apart can stop by the office in person at 540 Baltimore-Annapolis Boulevard, Suite A, in Severna Park between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am to noon on Sunday. Landmark has an active presence on Facebook and YouTube and can be found online at [www.roofingbylandmark.com](http://www.roofingbylandmark.com). To talk to a member of the team today, call 443-223-7453. ■



*The Landmark Roofing team recently stopped by the home of the Keiser family, the winners of the company's third annual roof giveaway. "You can tell they care and want to give back to the community," Christina Keiser said of Landmark.*





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# Gardening To Prevent Flood Water In Your Home

## Diane Whittles

Servpro of  
Annapolis/  
Severna Park



It's that time of year! Spring is teasing you with warmer temperatures, and you are ready to get your hands in the soil and start your summer garden. What kind of plants can you use and how can you lay out your flowerbeds to prevent water from getting into your home? Gardening doesn't have to be all about "curb appeal." It can also be functional. Here are some quick tips to prevent water from getting into your home.

**Create a water garden.** A natural-looking water garden should have sloped sides with planting terraces that step down toward the deepest area of the pond. This

allows you to plant a diversity of plant material and create different habitats while keeping water drainage to one area.

**Plant native.** Using native plants can help prevent soil erosion. Here are wild flowers to consider: black-eyed Susan, foxglove beardtongue, cardinal flower, and butterfly weed.

**Use mulch.** Covering the bare areas in your lawn or garden with mulch or straw is an effective method for preventing erosion from rain. Mulch spread over the surface of the soil reduces the impact of raindrops striking the soil. Use mulch in landscaping and on bare spots near your home to keep water away from your foundation.

**TIP:** Always wear a mask when spreading mulch. It contains mold spores that can irritate your throat, nasal passages and lungs.

**Install rain barrels.** Did you



know that up to 40 percent of total water use during the summer can come from watering lawns and gardens? Rain barrels are an effective way to capture rainwater to use in lawns and gardens. Rain barrels can be attached to storm drains to catch runoff from your roof. The water you collect can then be reused to water your lawn

and garden. For more information on rain barrels, contact the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

**Grade your yard.** To avoid incoming water, the ground should always slope away from your home in all directions surrounding your perimeter. You'll need to understand the high and low points of your home, and use extra dirt to slope accordingly. Have a plan in place or work with a professional to make sure vents, basement windows, pipes, drains and other areas aren't negatively impacted during the grading process.

The first day of spring is March 20. Be ready for April showers by landscaping your lawn to prevent water damage to your home.

*Servpro of Annapolis/Severna Park is located at 1446 Ritchie Highway in Arnold. For more information, call 410-647-8181 or visit [www.servproannapolis.com](http://www.servproannapolis.com).*

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# Understanding Unilock: The Latest In The Maryland Market

## Glenn Lowe

*Hardscape  
Specialist  
The Stone Store*

Have you been thinking of adding a paver patio to your backyard, but haven't seen a paving stone that has caught your eye enough to make your vision become a reality? Unilock concrete paving stones and retaining wall blocks are a new player in the Maryland market, providing some of the most unique and durable hardscaping products in North America. Crafted for every budget and design, Unilock pavers come in three lines: Classic, Enduracolor and Elegance.

Classic Unilock pavers are made in the traditional manner of uni-



formly mixing pigments with large and small aggregates, creating a consistent blend throughout the paver. This allows the product to exceed industry standards for quality and strength. Classic Unilock pavers are available in several timeless styles, and are some of Unilock's most cost-effective paver options.

The next style is the Enduracolor Unilock products that are a big step up in both looks and durability, and are manufactured using a newer, dual-layered process. With this process, the lower portion of the paver is made of blended larger aggregates for strength and finished with a top layer of wear-resistant smaller aggregates and

concentrated pigments. Enduracolor pavers will never wear through to their core aggregates in normal conditions, a process that leads to a faded look when the larger, lighter color aggregates are exposed. Enduracolor pavers are available in numerous finishes, including looks that mimic granite slabs and the familiar salt-and-pepper cobblestones. If unique is the look you are going for, Unilock's Enduracolor series will provide countless options, each of which will stand the test of time with their superior durability.

Last of the Unilock lines is the Elegance pavers. They are made using a new industry technique to create paving stones that closely resemble natural stone or brick, but have the benefit of being made of ultra-tough concrete. Mimicking cobblestone, slate and time-  
» **Continued on page 20**

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# Did Your Trees Weather The Wet Winter?

**Mike Gray**

The Tree People



**A**s residents face the adverse effects from a wet winter and head into spring, a question many homeowners wrestle with is "Can this tree be saved?"

If you're in doubt as to whether a tree can survive and thrive after a punch by Mother Nature, then it's time to consult a tree care professional.

A tree care expert may advise you to remove a tree that has brittle wood or a branch structure that makes it vulnerable to additional damage from future

storms. If a tree weathered minor damage, then a crown cleaning or thinning prune to restore shape might be all that is needed to restore a tree to its former glory.

However, before homeowners take the important step of seeking professional consultation, many of them wrestle with the sentimental value and property value that a tree brings. Such a delay could result in jeopardizing not only the tree's lifespan but could also lead to additional expenses and safety hazards should the tree or branches fall.

Falling trees can compromise safety and endanger residents. Often, we'll come in for professional cleanup and

» **Continued on page 18**



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## Did Your Trees Weather The Wet Winter?

» **Continued from page 17** realize that a downed tree could have been avoided had the homeowner taken steps in advance. A licensed and reputable tree removal service will offer free estimates and consultation before, during and after trouble arrives. A tree professional should have the integrity to care for both the tree and for the customer.

As winter rolls into spring, being proactive with tree care maintenance can make the difference as to whether or not a tree is still standing in the months ahead. Additionally, beautifying trees with mulching and pruning as needed can provide more benefits than just a more attractive landscape. Mulch

that wraps around the base of a tree is essentially hugging the root. Such mulch distribution can serve as a blanket, enveloping the roots and protecting against the elements. It's a small step that could easily lead to reduced financial output for homeowners facing long-term tree care.

Finding the balance between the necessity of tree removal and maintaining tree growth doesn't have to be a burden. A consultation with a tree care professional can alleviate a homeowner's concerns and be a major factor in contributing to the lifespan and health of a tree.

*The Tree People can be reached at 410-975-9333.*

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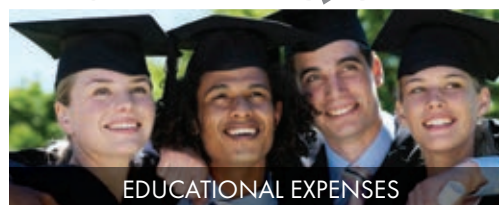
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## Get Your Lawn Ready

» Continued from page 11

### Start Those Sprinklers

When your lawn begins to wake up, it's going to be thirsty. Keeping your lawn, beds, trees and shrubs properly irrigated is important to the health of your green spaces. As the temperatures rise, you will be able to start up your sprinkler system for the first time of the year.

Make sure the ground is no longer frozen, as this can cause damage to your lines once you turn them on. Turn on your control panel and then slowly open up the main valve. Check that your irrigation zones are working properly and that all your sprinkler heads are clean.

As important as water is for the landscape, remember that too much water can also cause damage. Spring rains are usually adequate for the landscape. Save

the irrigation for when temperatures warm and surface soil begins to dry. Deep, infrequent water is key for best results.

### You're Ready For Spring!

Spring is a wonderful time of year. The bleak cold of winter is chased away by the jubilant warmth of spring. The birds and wildlife come back, and our lawns, plants and trees wake up to greet them. If you're proactive with your lawn care by doing your spring cleanup, composting, using pre-emergent weed control, and starting your sprinklers, then your lawn will come back healthy and lush. You'll get the beautiful lawn that you deserve!

For more information about lawn care practices, visit [www.onthegreeninc.com/contact-us](http://www.onthegreeninc.com/contact-us) or call 410-695-0444. ■

## Unilock

» Continued from page 16

less brick patterns, Unilock's Elegance line is often used to pave the main body of a project or as a finishing border trim to wrap up the look.

With styles and options to fit every taste and budget, Unilock pavers are quickly becoming a top choice for exterior projects by homeowners and professional contractors alike.

See The Stone Store's new and recently expanded Unilock display this spring. Gain inspiration while exploring the products and colors in person at The Stone Store, located at 7535 Railroad Avenue in Harman. For more information, visit [www.thestonestore.com](http://www.thestonestore.com) or call 410-766-4242 to talk to a sales representative today. ■

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*Arundel Federal Savings Bank has been helping Maryland residents save for their futures and finance the purchase of their homes for more than 100 years through five branches in Anne Arundel County and one in the Brooklyn area of Baltimore City. Arundel Federal is a Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender.*

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