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October 2016

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As Above, So Below



Mary Nestor
Editorial Director
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From the most elegant, to the most ordinary, home is always more than four walls and a roof—it's a place to relax and enjoy family and friends and to be a part of a larger neighborhood.

As Warren County grows in population and diversity, it's important to remember our roots. In this issue, the Society for Lifelong Learning offers a guest column with a behind the scenes campus tour hosted by Frieda Eggleton, who served as registrar for 28 years. A curator of sorts, she knows the backstory of the campus like the back of her hand.

This month's feature home is built on the site of an historic battle that wasn't even so much as a battle but a battle cry and a hasty escape. Now, the new construction adds a fresh voice to the ever-changing landscape.

Finally, a story about a rescue pet blurs the distinction and raises the question of who actually rescues whom, while the piece on putting a roof above those four walls has two meanings. Four walls are nothing without something to hold them together, so as the days cool and the nights grow long, gather the ones you love and head indoors to the safety of home. ✨

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Refinishing Realities

The endless joys of doing it yourself

BY BERNIE ERICKSON

Generally speaking, I like a crisp, clean kind of contemporary look in our home—some steel, some leather, a little granite and glass. The only antiques in our house are the people living there.

You know that one house in every neighborhood that has had a tag sale every weekend for the past eight years? Well, after driving by the one in our neighborhood half a dozen times, I stopped to check out what appeared to be an old wooden chair. I'm one of those guys who feels kind of awkward at yard sales because it seems like I'd be directly insulting someone if I didn't buy at least some of their junk.

The woman running the sale for the last decade obviously knew what she was

doing and could spot a sure thing like me a mile away. When I asked her the price of the chair, she said, "What'll you give me for it?"

"Twenty bucks," I replied.

"Fifty!" she shot back.

"Sold!"

The chair was kind of rickety and the finish really scratched up, but it was a really fine-grained maple, so I decided this would be a good candidate for refinishing.

I hadn't stripped and refinished a piece of furniture for ages and was hoping the process had advanced in the interim.

Back in the day, it took some noxious chemicals that made your eyes water and ate through the rubber gloves you

wore to protect your hands. If a drop of it got on the garage floor, it would bleach it white. And the newspapers you put down to protect everything turned into a pile of gray goop.

Turns out, things hadn't changed all that much.

It always makes me just a little nervous to buy a product that has a skull and crossbones on it. I'm also a little uneasy when the directions for use are about 100 words long and the caution label is actually a fold-out pamphlet that basically says if you use this product, something really terrible is going to happen.

I picked up the refinishing product and some steel wool, two sizes of scrapers, a drop cloth, some

elbow-length gloves, safety glasses and a respirator.

Next I brought the chair and all the refinishing supplies out to the garage, laid down the giant drop cloth, put on the hazmat suit and began brushing the goo onto the chair.

Did you know the chemicals in furniture refinishing products are so strong they quickly dissolve the glue that holds the bristles on a paintbrush?

Neither did I, until about five minutes into brushing on the goo when I was left holding a stick.

No problem, I thought, and began applying the noxious goo with steel wool. I worked it into every groove on every spindle and even got a toothbrush to get into the smallest of joints.

Yellowed varnish that has been on for about 75 years does not come off without a fight, but after about three hours of scrubbing and scraping, I was down to the bare wood. I decided that was enough for one day.

Remember how the noxious goo dissolved the glue that held the bristles on the paintbrush? Well, guess what? It also dissolves the glue that holds 75-year-old chairs together, and the next morning, my beautiful maple chair was lying in a heap on the garage floor.

I made one more trip to the home improvement store to purchase some wood glue and a bunch of big clamps to try and hold everything together so I could stain and varnish what was turning into much more of a project than I'd anticipated.

The glue and clamps did what they were supposed to, and after about three more days of glue and clamp, glue and clamp, all the pieces were where they were supposed to be, and it was ready for the finish coats.

Finally, the easy part. One day to stain, another day to apply satin varnish and one more day to apply the second coat, and it was all set.

When all was said and done, I had about \$300 invested in the chair and all the product and equipment to restore it. I was so pleased that for once in my life, I showed some restraint and started off with one small project rather than trying my skill on a dining room set for 12.

And in the corner of our living room sits the one thing in our house that is older than the homeowners. At least that particular antique has a nice smooth finish and joints that don't creak. ✨

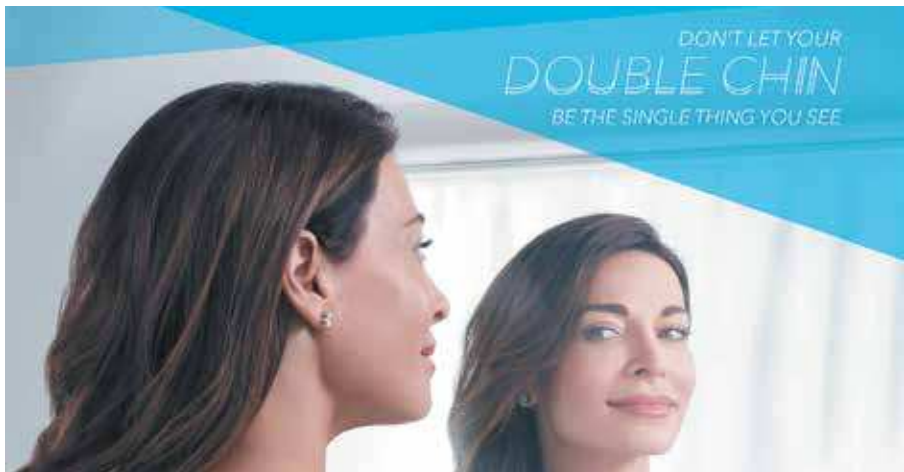


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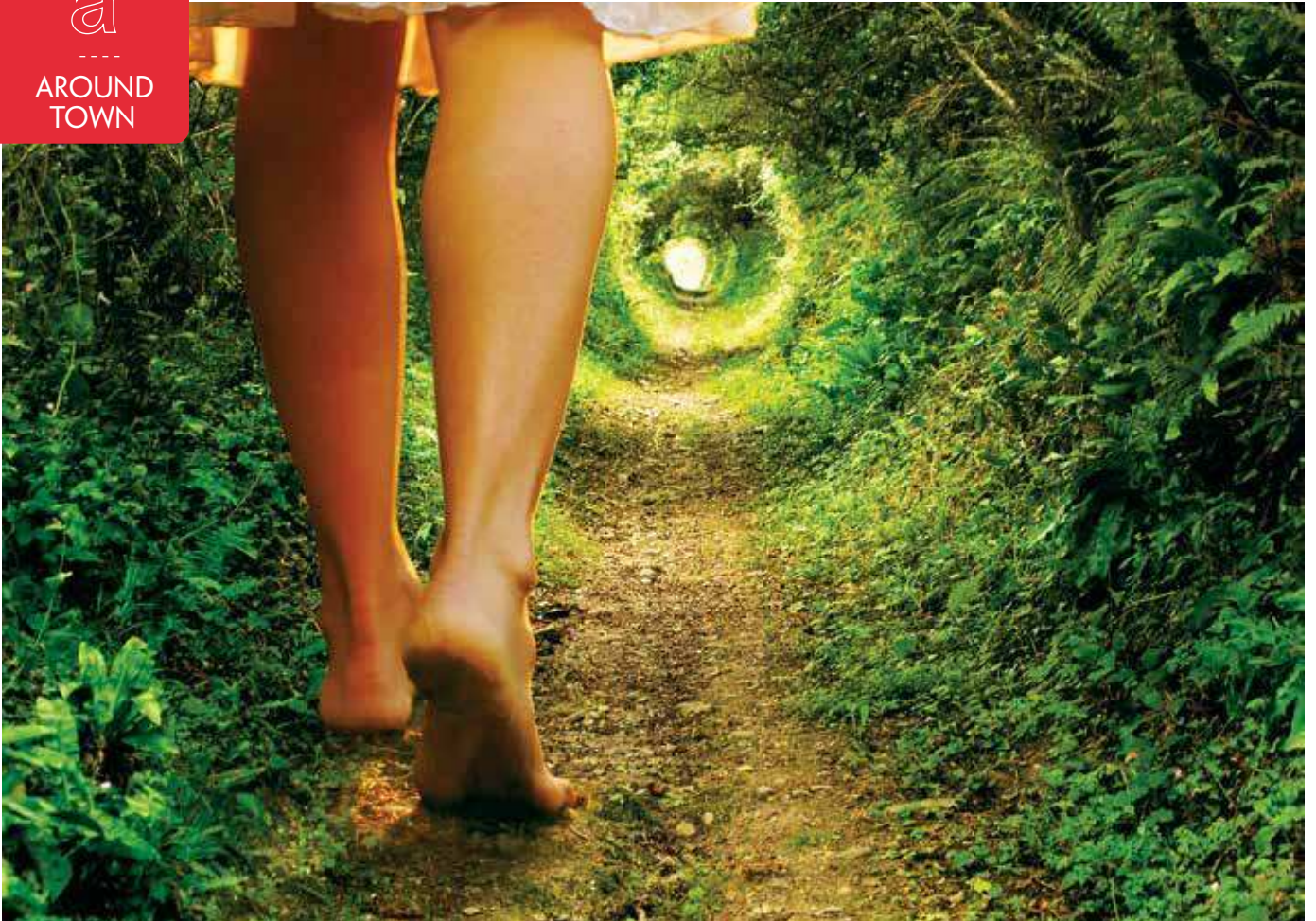


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AROUND
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Looking for Something New to Do? Just Go Ask Alice

There is a place like no place on earth, a land full of wonder and mystery.

These words from *Alice Through the Looking Glass* have been reinterpreted for Bowling Green thanks to the advent of life-sized, interactive, real-time “escape” games.

Escape games are immersive gaming situations where players are confronted with a series of clues and a time limit. Their mission—either alone or in groups—is to solve the puzzle that unlocks the door. The sets can be elaborate or simple, but the goal is the same.

Millennials are credited with starting the trend. Childhoods spent in front of computer screens solving



Not everybody solves the puzzle in time to escape the game, but everybody leaves with a smile.

Escape games are immersive gaming situations where players are confronted with a series of clues and a time limit.

puzzles and playing video games make them a natural audience, but Ken McCutchen, who launched Conundrum Escape, says the game can be much more serious.

Part of his mission is to entertain, but he also wants people to utilize escape gaming as a method of team building and critical thinking. At his new location on Russellville Road, McCutchen says he tried to up the ante on the setting and enrich the tactile experience.

Defined as immersive gaming, escape games place the players in situations where they unlock clues to discover the keys to their escape. It's a timed game where they're required to complete challenges.

McCutchen is committed to staying in front of the curve. At his new location on Russellville Road, he has made the investment in what he calls a full immersive experience. He says the new location is three levels above where they came from at their previous location.

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that bring the scenarios to life.

"It's the difference between going to a haunted house and going to Disneyland," he says. The technology is hidden from view, but the effect is not. When a door opens, it squeaks; when a person walks past a clue, a motion sensor may kick out a sensory response. "When you walk through a door, six things can happen at the same time," says the entrepreneur.

Across town at the Red Door Escape Game on Old Louisville Road, Nathan Booth and Katlyn Coskran launched their project after visiting an escape game on the West Coast. Booth says they immediately got hooked. "When it's over and you go back to your normal life, there is a space that you want to keep filling," he says.

At the Red Room, there are three distinct challenges: one for younger clients who may want to have birthday parties or play dates, another for more-experienced gamers, and one developed specifically for the Halloween season. Booth says business has been excellent.

Participants have an hour to solve a mystery, escape an asylum or experience other immersive games that challenge their ability to think both inside and outside the proverbial box. The clues

can be difficult, and people don't always escape in the end, but the consensus is that it's an experience like no other and definitely worth the challenge.

People of all ages are good candidates, but McCutchen particularly enjoys engaging adults. His background as an accountant exposes him to corporate clients who may need opportunities for team-building exercises, and he feels escape games fit that bill.

He often takes his show on the road and sets up challenges for larger audiences with specific outcomes in mind. Recently he hosted around 120 people at the Bowling Green Convention Center to help a corporate client with team building, and he does laboratory experiment-type escape rooms for high school students interested in math and science.

Asked if he was also a gamer growing up, Booth says, "Absolutely, but with escape games, it's more fun, because it's a physical interaction with something. You can't just randomly click around and see what turns over. You've got to do this yourself and see what works."

Which leads us back to Alice in Wonderland: It's all about you, you know. It's impossible only if you think it is. ✱



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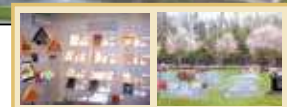
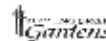
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Exploring WKU with the Society for Lifelong Learning

What do eight weeks, 12 Lifelong Learners, 40 years of experience and one old mall have in common? Come along on this behind the scene look at Western Kentucky University.

BY KATHERINE PENNAVARIA

This past spring, about a dozen members of the Society for Lifelong Learning got a “behind the scenes” look at some of the university’s lesser-known facilities and services. University Registrar Emerita Freida Eggleton led the group on this special exploration of Western. For eight weeks, the group spent each Thursday afternoon visiting a variety of sites both on and off campus. They rode the shuttle buses right alongside current WKU co-eds, got a guided tour from students and staff, and like most learning adventures, there was plenty of time for Q and A.

Their first stop was the WKU Welcome Center in the Augenstein Alumni Center. There, participants got to see the video shown to prospective students and to experience what visitors new to the campus experience. Other on-campus locations the group visited: the Downing Student Union, the public radio station in the Academic Complex, the recently completed Honors College and International Center, the Kentucky Museum, the Craig Administrative Center (where the president works), and the Chandler Memorial Chapel.

Farther afield, the group visited the Baker Arboretum and Downing Museum on Old Morgantown Road and the Medical Center Health Sciences Complex. One of the more popular stops for members of the class was the Center

for Research and Development, located at the corner of Nashville Road and Campbell Lane (longtime residents might recognize the location as the site of the first mall).

The CRD houses the university’s new brewing facility, which supports a multidisciplinary certificate in brewing and distilling. Also popular with the SLL participants was the final tour stop, the WKU farm south of the city on Elrod Road. On that visit, the “students” got to see newborn calves and go on a hayride.

Eggleton, who served on the initial curriculum committee for the SLL, retired two years ago after working 40 years full time at the university. In the spring of 2015, she volunteered to organize and lead an “Exploring WKU” class for the inaugural semester of the Society for Lifelong Learning and repeated the offering this past spring. “Having been here as long as I have, I really experienced a great sense of pride in showing these facilities,” says Eggleton. “It’s interesting to see everyone’s reaction to these gems—and that’s what they are.”

SLL participants echo Eggleton’s enthusiasm for exploring the university’s offerings. Carol DuBose, who graduated from WKU in 1998 with a master’s degree in secondary education, says, “It was fascinating to see the innovations and the variety of things that go on at Western. The research and development park on Nashville Road—I had no idea



Freida Eggleton



that was there. And seeing the workings of the TV and radio stations was very interesting.” Asked about riding the shuttle with students, she adds, “That was an eye opener! You see how the students conduct themselves on a day-to-day basis; they’re all plugged into their phones and everything. But it was fun, it really was.”

DuBose has high praise for the tour organizer as well: “Freida was a master at explaining things. I’m sure the logistics of organizing the whole thing was a challenge, but she did a great job at making sure everybody was accommodated.” Like most members of the Society for Lifelong Learning, DuBose is enthusiastic about the opportunities offered by the program: “It is such a wonderful opportunity for people like me who are retired and don’t want to

just sit around and watch TV and work crossword puzzles. It really stretches me to go to these classes.”

Carol Wilson, retired Computer Science Department faculty member, was especially impressed with the Center for Research and Development’s electron microscope: She also enjoyed the Baker Arboretum, calling it “an absolute jewel that most people in Bowling Green don’t know about.”

David Keown, former operations vice president at DESA International, a manufacturer of space heating products, got more than he expected with Eggleton’s class: “When I signed up for this class, I anticipated a guided tour of the Western facilities, but as it turned out, it was a lot more than that. I developed

Lifelong learners explored the campus of Western Kentucky University both on campus and off. From the Downing Museum, to the working farm, to the Baker Arboretum, the tour explored “hidden gems.” Organized by SLL, the tour focused on the lesser-known elements of life on the hill. Longtime Registrar, Freida Eggleton served as hostess, lecturer, and tour guide, in sharing some of her favorite places.



For additional information on the Society for Lifelong Learning at WKU, call 270-745-1912 or visit www.wku.edu/sll.



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an appreciation for what WKU has to offer not only to the students but to the local community as well." He especially liked the visit to the Honors College and International Center, saying, "That international outreach program is very impressive." And, he said, "I appreciated the knowledge and professionalism of the students and staff at each location we visited."

Diane M. Hunton, who earned a master's degree in public administration from WKU in 1981, highly recommends the class: "You can see things you don't think of a university as doing, like the brewery and the farm. At the farm, we got to see the machinery and visit a little cheese store. They even have beekeepers out there! You can ask questions about anything; they are all so knowledgeable and receptive." She also enjoyed the experience of riding the shuttle. "I thought it was wonderful and that the students were very polite. They even offered us their seats; their mothers raised them right," she said with a laugh. Hunton enthuses about the Society for Lifelong Learning: "It's a hidden gem. You don't have to be associated with Western to be part of it. I received a gift certificate toward membership when I retired, and that turned out to be a wonderful idea. This semester I'm taking sign language and a class about selling merchandise on eBay."

The Society for Lifelong Learning is open to all. Information about membership and classes being offered this fall can be found at wku.edu/sll.

Eggleton plans to offer the Exploring WKU class again in spring 2017. ✿



Katherine Pennavaria is a Professor and Coordinator of the VPAL (Visual and Performing Arts Library, Department of Library Public Services). Katherine's research interests include genealogy, library history and the role of librarians

as teachers. She is teaching "The Operas of Puccini" for the Fall 2016 term of the Society for Lifelong Learning.

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Dog Daze: A Joy Ride with a Rescue Pet

BY MARY NESTOR

Oh, you're just not a dog person." That is always my mother's answer to my complaint that she feeds Roxy, her overweight golden retriever, table scraps. Part of the problem is that she insists on doing this in "real time," which means the food is not yet technically "scrap." She has transformed this hairy beast dog into a begging machine, and it unnerves me.

The good news is that I live in Bowling Green and she lives in Kansas City, which ultimately complicates the backstory because in addition to not being a "dog person," I am also known as the family "health food freak."

Keep in mind, I have researched and written on healthy lifestyles for many years, so naturally I know the value of locally sourced whole foods, as versus,

say, calling for a pizza. And as much as they benefit our teeny tiny red blood cells, those farm-fresh foods often come at a premium price. Grass-fed buffalo burgers may sound simple, but trust me, it's no piece of cake. So when my visits to mom include preparing entire meals of expensive cuts of protein, naturally this health-food-freak-not-dog person would prefer to only be feeding humans with her efforts.

Nonetheless, Roxy seems to reign supreme. She holds court at my mom's feet and is secretly rewarded when my back is turned.

"I saw that."

I can only guess what occurs all the other days of the year when I'm not present at the table to at least comment on the ridiculousness of the scenario.

"You're just not a dog person."

Perhaps she is right.

It isn't that I don't recognize the importance of having a best friend. And if you're a man, it's probably good that man's best friend can't speak because eventually you might find yourself in a discussion about how it feels to be a dog or a man or a man's best friend, and let's be honest, no guy wants to have that conversation. So cracking a beer on the back porch at the end of the day while Fido hangs at your heels yet can't say a word—I get it. Companions. Compatriots.

Begging for scraps is not so endearing.

My family has tried to make me a dog person. They don't appreciate my voice of reason. They use random tactics. They make a game of trying to locate the "perfect dog" for me, which often involves them trying to give away puppies that they either found or fostered.

Lately I had been thinking about calling their bluff. I had been considering an elaborate plan to quiet them once and for all. I decided to tell them I was getting a dog.

Naturally that hit the wire. I got a series of texts. "Mom said you got a dog. What kind of dog?"

"I don't have a dog."

"Oh mom said you FINALLY got a dog." It's my younger sister, and for a moment I almost feel bad that I don't actually have a dog story to share. "Nope. I was only pulling your chain."

I knew their lingo.

"That's not funny," she says. "Besides that,

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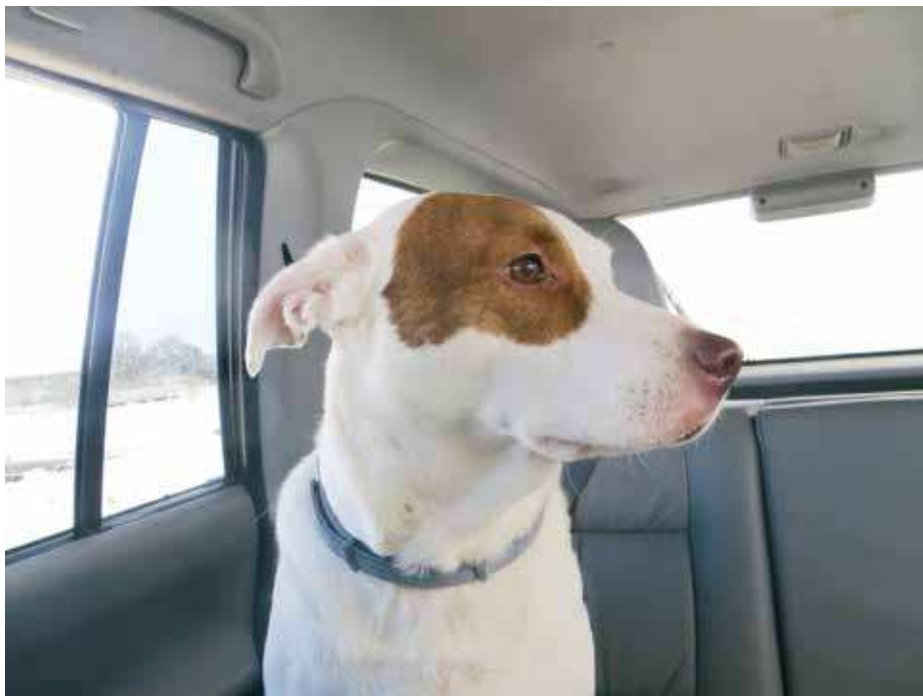
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She watched
the scenery fly
past on her way
home on the day
a dog person
finally came to
her rescue.



I have the perfect dog for you.”

I should have seen this one coming. She says, “Bella and Beau just had puppies.”

Keep in mind, I may not be a dog person, but I’m not entirely heartless. Bella and Beau are a mix of shih tzu and bichon frise, and they’re adorable. They look like fluffy little bandits.

Perhaps she sensed a crack in my armor. My sister began texting photos of the puppies Bella and Beau dreamed up. They were ridiculously cute. She sent stills. She sent video. She confessed that she dreaded the thought of separating the siblings and wanted the boy and the girl to stay together. Besides, she argued, did I really want an “only” dog?

“Who says I want I dog?”

“You did,” she points out.”

“I was not serious.”

And then somehow she knew some magic words. “I’m telling you sis—puppies are good for your soul.”

I felt a fissure—a surface crack. How did she know what to say to me? I only see her at holidays and random visits. We talk on the

phone, but I am the brave one. I don’t tell her my fears. She couldn’t possibly know that the news these days is making me numb—that terror threats and political turmoil have made it hard to smile sometimes?

Something broke in my resolve. Maybe those dog lovers are on to something. Maybe I should get a dog.

Her cheesecake puppy pics didn’t stop coming and I found myself trying to think of names for the boy and then the girl and then, finally the boy and girl together: Betty and BamBam. Dean and Delilah. Jelly and Bean. My sister promised she was going to give them to me. She would personally deliver them to me as soon as she came to terms with the idea of even letting them go. I knew it was just a matter of time before I would be eating those words, “I’m getting a dog,” so I figured I better tell my husband.

“We’re not getting a dog,” he said. “Absolutely not. We just got the kids out of here.” He had a point. Cute names are one thing, but it reminded me of the last time I had to house break someone. So I felt my confidence coming back. I am just not

a dog person. I made fresh buffalo burgers. I drank some resveratrol. I waited a day. I texted early in the morning, so maybe my sister and her adorable puppies would still be asleep. “I can’t take the puppies. I don’t want to be tied down.”

Her text reply was immediate and on point. “You won’t be tied down. You can take them with you. They’ll fit in your purse.”

What the heck was she even doing up so early and wide awake? Probably cleaning up puppy pee. Maybe they kept her up all night.

I would blame my husband. “He said ‘no.’”

“Oh, OK.” Even in a text her sarcasm was obvious. “Yeah, I see how it is.”

Let’s review: These are adorable puppies. They are expensive dogs, but I pay nothing. They are fluffy and soft and funny, and they play, and they are not big enough to table surf, and even if they could leap onto the bed, I wouldn’t feel their weight. And I can take them everywhere, and my soul will be lifted, and my husband is not the boss of me.

By the time I decided to absolutely find room in my heart and my home and grab the reigns and become a dog person, my sister

wasn't about to answer my texts saying I had changed my mind. Instead, she ignored me. A week passed and then another. Then on a Friday, I finally got a text back. She had found a home for the puppies. They went together, but she didn't want me to feel bad. "It wasn't meant to be."

My soulless soul was devastated. I moped around the house for days. I stayed up late watching TV alone without Betty or BamBam. I slept in because nobody was barking to wake me up. I was back where I started, but something had been lost.

I called my boss. What's wrong with me? Do I even have a heart?

He said yes, of course you have a heart. There's nothing wrong with you. Those weren't the puppies you wanted. You wanted a watch dog, remember? You wanted a dog that was already house broken because you

weren't sure if you could train it. You wanted a rescue dog that wasn't spoiled. A smart dog. You didn't want yappy puppies. And anyway, I'm not the boss of you.

My husband, who is not a talker, is apparently a pretty good listener, because he was right.

Three days later, he came home for lunch with a printed paper from the rescue shelter and tossed it on the coffee table in front of the couch where I was sitting cross legged channel surfing with a distracted stare, and he said, "There's your dog."

The picture floated down and landed face up. There she was. A cute little mix of pit bull and pointer with short hair and brown spots like a cow—like a Little Rascals dog. Her description said she was well trained and house broken and needed a good home. She was 4 years old—28

in people years—but if her serious stare was any indication, she was an old soul wearied by the same human folly that must have put her in a shelter to begin with. I needed her, and more importantly, she needed me.

My husband and I traded cars, and right after lunch, I went to get her. I had to sign the papers and pay the fees and get the free leash, which she didn't seem to mind. And as soon as I opened the hatch, she jumped in and then leapt over the backseat and waited for me to get in, start the truck, roll down the window and drive down the street so she could hang her head out to feel wind on her face and feel her ears sail and smell fresh air and look for better days ahead. She watched the scenery fly past on her way home on the day a dog person finally came to her rescue. ✨

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History Isn't Always by the Book

Bowling Green's Evolving Downtown

When builder Kelly Arnold of Gemini Homes started construction at 724 10th St., he didn't break ground so much as excavate. From the former site of the Big Brothers Big Sisters building, Arnold unearthed an old foundation, reclaimed hundreds of pounds of native stone and found four lucky horseshoes.

"I'm calling them my Civil War horseshoes," he says half kidding before telling the story of Reservoir Hill, where an encampment of Confederate soldiers hightailed it out of there after scouts reported a much larger contingent of Union troops gathering north of the river.

Historic homes around Reservoir Hill are some of the oldest in Bowling Green, but now, thanks in part to Arnold's efforts, there are some new neighbors here. This is one of six building sites that he purchased, hoping to put his stamp on the changing downtown landscape.

Arnold says the 2,200-square-foot home situated on a long, narrow lot was a challenge because of the steep



FACING PAGE: Rough cut "Rosetta stone" steps were the inspiration for additional stonework on the facade. Part of the landscape stone was unearthed during the excavation process.



INSET PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT: Builder Kelly Arnold of Gemini Homes was looking for elements that would lend a big impact in a compact space. He combined texture, color, and depth to create an intriguing facade which helped secure two awards during the recent 2016 Parade of Homes.



The homeowners decorated with items that were both functional and eye catching. Here, a rounded bookcase lends an industrial element with a user-friendly shape.

grade and the required setbacks. “Our entire lot is only 45 feet wide, and we had to stay 5 feet from each side,” he explains.

“This is a spec house that turned into a custom home,” Arnold says. The buyers arrived after the drywall and before the interior trim, so they were able to approve or change the order on the selected finishes.

Despite its compact footprint, it makes a big impact. Upstairs are two bedrooms, a full bath and a bonus room that was converted into a home theater. On the main level, the foyer flows into the kitchen area and adjoining dining room. A vaulted ceiling caps a casual living room. There is a main-level master suite with custom closets and a full bath. The enclosed screen porch in back is made even more private thanks to the strategic siting of another Gemini home being constructed right next door.

Although the home is not in the

TOP LEFT: In the winter months, a working fireplace will be an essential element of the great room. Here, a herringbone pattern in neutral shades provides just enough visual interest to balance the scale.

BOTTOM LEFT: Symmetry of scale and a color palette that brings a crisp white front and center makes a big impact in the master bath.





Historic District, downtown living lends an expectation of formal elements. This home does not disappoint. There are hardwood floors and detailed trim. But overall, the ambiance is casual. There are unexpected elements around every corner, from the corrugated tin backyard fence framed in raw timber to the chic industrial light fixtures throughout.

“Pops of color” come in the form of metal, wood and unpolished stone. On a trip to Lee Brick and Block to source material for the retaining wall, Arnold found a rough-cut slab called Rosetta Stone, which he

stacked and used for entryway steps. This unique feature establishes the motif and offers a glimpse of things to come.

Transom windows situated above the sight line allow for privacy while still illuminating the interiors. As the builder points out, placing windows high on the wall accommodates more useable wall space in a compact design.

“This design is entirely custom,” Arnold says of the blueprint.

In the space beneath the stairs, which in most cases is simply drywalled and left alone, Arnold instead framed it and added a

TOP: The kitchen features weathered wood custom cabinets, a stacked height working island capped in granite, and stainless steel appliances for a clean, functional finish.

BOTTOM LEFT & MIDDLE: Despite its compact footprint, there is room for both formal and casual dining. Placing the windows three quarters above the floor adds privacy to the downtown space.

BOTTOM RIGHT: A unique rounded mirror in the powder bath introduces the metal elements that are repeated throughout the home.

“(The buyers) said, ‘Can you make us a doghouse here beneath the stairs?’ and I said, ‘Sure.’”



doggy door complete with a crosshatch gated door.

“(The buyers) said, ‘Can you make us a doghouse here beneath the stairs?’ and I said, ‘Sure,’” he recounts. “They said, ‘Can you put a light in?’ and I said, ‘Sure.’” So now, the foyer is not only the home’s entryway, but it offers an immediate sense of style and fun as visitors realize this is as much a home for four-legged family members as it is for new neighbors and old friends.

Another unique feature of the exterior landscape is a vertical stone division between the lots. It forms a retaining wall for the second property, and its provenance is another interesting story. Years ago, says Arnold, ordinary street curbs were chunks of hand-cut limestone sliced vertically and buried so that only a small portion of it formed the actual curb.



A simple flower pot with a wire strand mounted to the beam of the enclosed backyard porch adds elegance and style.

The stone above the ground was painted industrial yellow and left to protect people and property alike. Carving a trench and burying the stones so deeply assured builders and city planners that curbs would form strong barriers. So now, more than 100 years later, Arnold hopes that reclaiming the historic record in the form of faded yellow limestone curbs and stacking them between the two lots to form a retaining wall will make an interesting conversation piece and a functional building element.

In this case, the builder intended that good fences make good neighbors as the downtown landscape continues to evolve. *

For more pictures of this beautiful home, please visit the Bowling Green Daily News website at www.bgdailynews.com/community.



TOP ROW: Gemini Homes took home two awards in this year’s Parade of Homes. They won Best of Show for under 3,000 square feet as well as Best Curb Appeal. Thanks in part to their four-legged friends, the owners got the change to customize the home even though they bought it after the builder already broke ground.

LEFT: Barn doors aren’t just for barns. Intricate bracketing, unique design, and precision craftsmanship make these functional items a work of art.

FACING PAGE: The back porch might just offer the best seats in the house thanks to the privacy of the site.



A long narrow lot didn't require compromise of style or substances. This home offers a confident blend of indoors and out.



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Thinking about getting a metal roof?

Tim,

We are interested in a metal roof for our next home, but we don't understand the difference between corrugated metal and standing seam metal. Would you explain the differences?

Back before asphalt shingles were invented, metal roofing was used to cover homes, barns, commercial buildings, factories and churches. It was a good, affordable, durable roofing material.

Nowadays, metal roofing is enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Corrugated metal panels are often used in commercial and low-end residential applications, but standing seam is becoming a lot more prominent and extremely popular in high-end

residential and commercial retrofits and new roof installations. Both of these systems have their pros and cons that must be considered before deciding which system will best suit your needs.

Corrugated metal panels were invented the early 1800s. It was the "new and improved" metal roofing system featuring wavy or ribbed panel profile. Corrugating the sheets of metal, which was hot-dip galvanized iron at the time, increased their strength and longevity.

During the installation, corrugated

Nowadays, metal roofing is enjoying a resurgence in popularity.



metal panels are overlapped by one or two ridges. Exposed fasteners are used to attach the corrugated metal to the roof decking underneath. In the early days, caulk was commonly used to seal between the corrugated panels at the point of overlap to keep rainwater and moisture out. Caulking was the least permanent part of the corrugated metal roof when they first came to the marketplace. Though corrugated metal roofs today are much better than their forefathers, they still don't have the water tightness, appearance or longevity of a standing seam metal roof.

Standing seam metal roofing became the "new and improved" roofing option in the mid-1900s. The "standing" or raised seams made the durable roofing material even more weatherproof. The ridges that run the length of standing seam metal roofs are the seams between the metal panels. Bending the panel edges up to a height of ½ to 1½ inches and then folding them over makes standing seam metal roofs more weatherproof. The raised seams force rainwater and moisture to run off the roof in the channels between the seams instead of working its way between the metal panels.

DIFFERENCE IN PRICE

While the cost of corrugated metal will be slightly higher than asphalt shingles, standing seam featuring improved design, thicker panels and better warranties can seem very expensive in comparison. With standing seam, materials and installation costs will be roughly three to four times the cost of corrugated metal or shingles. However, with standing seam, you're not going to have to buy another new roof for a very long time, if at all. In my experience, either high-quality corrugated metal panels with exposed fasteners or a standing

seam metal roof with concealed fasteners will last significantly longer than asphalt. Hence, either system can be a smart investment in your home.

DIFFERENCE IN MATERIALS

Standing seam metal roofs are a little more heavy-duty than corrugated metal roofs due to the thickness of the roofing material. While on the surface this difference in thickness may seem insignificant, the appearance of the standing seam will be significantly more visually appealing and durable.

This difference in thickness is part of the reason for the difference in price between corrugated metal and standing seam. The thicker material used in standing seam panels costs more than the thinner material commonly used in corrugated metal sheets.

LOOKS AND AESTHETICS

Corrugated metal and standing seam each imparts its own "look" onto a building. Which looks best is really a matter of opinion. They are both available in a wide range of colors.

- Corrugated metal roofs have a less formal look. The ridges are closer together and usually soft and rounded. There are corrugated metal panels available with sharp corrugation lines rather than soft waves, though.
- Standing seam metal roofs have a slightly more formal look. The raised seams are 1 to 1½ feet apart and look like sharp, straight ridges. A darker standing seam metal roof looks almost like a pinstripe suit.

LIFESPAN

Corrugated and standing seam metal roofs can last for many decades. When installed correctly, a metal roof may last as long as 50 to 60 years or more.

- Corrugated metal roofs require a



regular maintenance routine to keep them in tip-top shape. They are installed with fasteners that are exposed to the elements. Even the best corrugated metal roof needs to have the fasteners inspected and tightened every 10 years or so.

- Standing seam metal roofs do not require this type of routine maintenance thanks to their concealed fasteners.

Most corrugated metal roofs are resilient and rust-resistant, but standing seam is even more so.

- Corrugated metal roofing sheets are usually made from steel that is “galvanized” or coated with zinc. This zinc coating gives the steel a dull silver color before it is painted. It also makes the steel resistant to rust and corrosion. Corrugated metal sheets are also available in aluminum and Galvalume steel, but these materials are more expensive.

- Standing seam metal roofs are commonly made from a material called Galvalume, which is steel that has been “super-galvanized.” This super-galvanizing coating is an aluminum-zinc alloy. Galvalume is roughly twice as resistant to rust and corrosion as the steel used for corrugated metal roofing because of this special galvanizing process.

Whether you choose a corrugated metal or standing seam roof, both can serve you and your family for many decades to come. ✿



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Tips for Tackling Storm-Related Roof Damage

Family Features

Having your home severely damaged by a storm can turn your world upside down. The damage could simply be cosmetic, or so extensive as to render your home uninhabitable. In either case, you need to act fast, but smart, to ensure that your home will be properly repaired.

Often, foremost among your concerns will be your roof, as it is protects the rest of your home and possessions. Start your post-storm repair process with these tips from the experts at CertainTeed Roofing.

Keep safety first. Leave emergency repairs to the professionals. A crisis that affects your home is an emotional event, but your safety is paramount. Do not attempt any emergency

repairs unless you are qualified to do so.

Prepare for your insurance adjuster. Take time to do your own documentation. Take plenty of photos and notes on the damage to your home. This information will become a helpful checklist to compare against the insurance company's findings. When it comes to the roof, check outside for things such as blown off shingles, damaged gutters and large branches that may have fallen onto your home. Also, if you can safely access your attic, examine the underside of your roof for damage or leaks.

Find the right contractor. You will want to interview at least three contractors for your roof repair. This allows you to compare prices,

work styles and other factors before making your selection. Here are some key questions to ask:

Are you a credentialed installer? Most shingle manufactures have strict guidelines for installation. These assure that you get the best performance and meet the requirements for the product and/or workmanship warranty. For example, CertainTeed Roofing issues education-based credentials such as the ShingleMaster or SELECT ShingleMaster.

Do you have storm experience? Some contractors are experienced in storm restoration and trained in storm damage evaluation and repair. These are the contractors you want when dealing with an insurance claim.

Where is your business located? You will want a local contractor with an established business location who can provide at least four to five references. This way, if you need to follow up for any reason, they will be easy to reach.

Do you carry liability and worker's comp insurance? Your contractor should be fully insured with liability and workers compensation insurance. This will protect you should any workers get hurt during the repair process.

Are you licensed with the state or municipality? The answer to this question may be no, as not all states or municipalities have licensing requirements for roofing contractors. If licensing is required, there are websites, such as the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, where you can look up a company's status.

Check for special repair designations required by your insurance. In some instances, insurance companies require that certain materials be used in the repair of your home. In areas prone to hail storms, for example, you may be required to install shingles that are classified as impact resistant, which stand up better to hailstorms.

Find more tips to help guide your roof repair, and find qualified installers in your area, at CertainTeed.com. *



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5 Smart Strategies to Settle an Estate

Family Features

When a parent passes away, it's usually left to their offspring to manage and disperse the remaining estate. In the wake of such a loss, emotions can run high, and the sheer amount of paperwork can quickly become overwhelming.

If you're in the throes of settling an estate, whether by yourself or with the assistance of your siblings, consider these tips to help chart a smoother course.

Get organized. Keep a seemingly endless to-do list manageable by writing everything

down. Create a system for prioritizing each task and if there are others who are willing to help, delegate what you can. Establish categories such as bills to pay and other outstanding debts, accounts to close, agencies and organizations that need to be notified of the death and so on.

Know your limits. Some estates are simple and straightforward: There's a basic will, few assets, known heirs, and it's easy to grasp what happens next. Others are far more complicated. If you find yourself in over your head, seek help from an expert such as

Create a system for prioritizing each task and if there are others who are willing to help, delegate what you can.

an estate attorney who can guide you through the legalities and paperwork.

Focus on solutions. Remember that even the most seemingly hopeless situations can turn out well if you remain open to exploring solutions. When Karen Jones' mother passed away, she and her four siblings were left with a house that needed a lot of repairs none of them could afford before it could be sold. Jones learned about HomeVestors from a sister and the two scheduled a free consultation with a local independently owned and operated franchise.

Within 24 hours, Aaron Katz with WinWin Properties presented an offer not only to Jones, but individually to all of her siblings who were not able to meet at the same time. Jones credits Katz's professionalism, kindness and sensitivity during a difficult time for her family.

An option such as HomeVestors, the largest professional house buying franchise in the nation, offers cash payments and quick closing, which can be helpful in settling an estate. In many cases, homes can also be sold as-is with no repairs and with unwanted contents still inside. For more information, visit homevestors.com.

Expect the unexpected. It may come in the form of a change in the will or old letters stashed in a closet, but it's a safe bet that in settling the estate, you'll come across something you weren't expecting. Add this to the emotional simmer you've been holding steady and this may be the tipping point to boil you over. Simply put the new information. *

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Here's my to-do list for the year!

- Put new lighting in the Living Room
- Remodel Kitchen
- Find out what's wrong with the ceiling fan
- Hook up the new pool
- Move the hot tub to the side deck - don't forget to hook it up!

Love, Mom

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ELEMENTS



The subtle blending of neutrals, combined with a rich weathered look in the cabinetry finish, creates a soothing and calming work space for the homeowners.

Gorgeous Gray

Recently our family vacationed on the landscape of the rocky shores of Lake Superior. The spectacular views were dotted with birch trees and unspoiled rock formations of granite, agate and slate that glistened in the sunshine. I was inspired by the color gray. This “new neutral” in décor is intrinsically found in the natural landscapes of vertical rock faces, cascading waterfalls and gorges that forge out forest floors. Gray evokes a feeling of stillness and grand beauty. We are drawn to colors that resonate with our experiences and comfort us in our homes and in all directions of our daily lives. The pureness of gray can convey an edgy or a calming, soft design sense, depending on the aesthetics of your home and your style preference in accentuating colors. It pairs beautifully with almost any



The rustic black wrought iron hardware is the crowning touch for this weathered finish cabinetry featuring a gray stain.

BY SHERI FERCHO | IMAGES COURTESY DURA SURPEME CABINETRY

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This kitchen is a perfect example of beautiful neutrals complimented by the textures of wood, tile and metallic touches.

color, whether bright or muted tones, and interplays perfectly with kitchen cabinets, countertops or tiles in your backsplash. Wood grains in your decor add extra harmony, integrating rich layers of design that can create anything from a rustic environment to defined elegance.

The popularity of gray for interior designs is on the rise, and homeowners are embracing this beautiful, soft, rich color in every room of the home, including our much-loved kitchens. From light gray to dark gray and every shade in between, this color is being used as a neutral background color, an accent color or even the dominant color. Undertones from cool to warm render gray applicable to most any design theme.

Dura Supreme has introduced a beautiful palette of gray paints and gray stains. Karen Wistrom, ASID, vice president of marketing for Dura Supreme Cabinetry, stated, "It has been interesting to see these finishes suddenly flowing across our manufacturing floor, destined for homes around the country. We've already seen enthusiastic acceptance of these new colors as homeowners started immediately selecting our various shades of gray paints for their homes and their new Dura Supreme kitchens."

Design possibilities are limitless with handsome grays by adding comfortable fabrics, metallics, rich textures and warm woods. Whether you are trying to achieve formality or comfort in your home, go for gray.*

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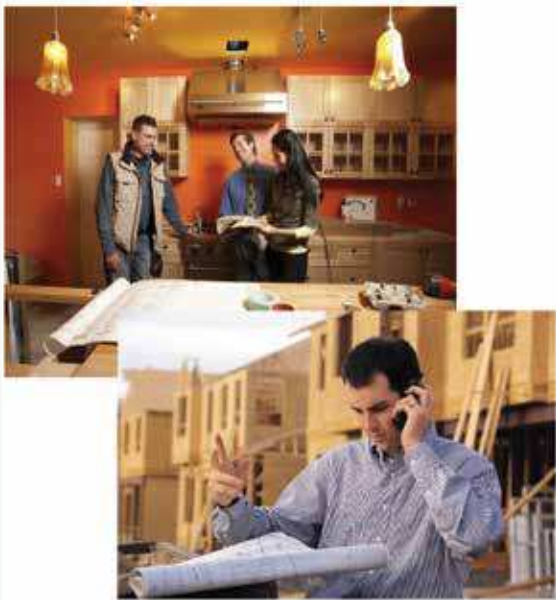
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Bring Autumn Colors To SPICED SWEETS

Family Features

Cooler temperatures, beautiful changing leaves and the familiar scent of pumpkin pie spice are all signs of fall. Whether you're hosting a pumpkin carving party or decorating sweet treats with family, celebrate the season with maple-flavored leaf-shaped cookies, pumpkin patch cupcakes and hot apple cider.

"The crisp air seems to inspire us all to start baking again," said McCormick Executive Chef Kevan Vetter. "Create an autumn frosting palate with our new Color from Nature Food Colors, which

are made from ingredients such as beets and turmeric. You can combine the trio of starter colors – berry, sunflower and sky blue – to make everything from a maroon glaze for an Autumn Leaf Cookie to orange frosting for a Pumpkin Patch Cupcake."

The Color from Nature Food Colors can be used in icing, beverages and other no-bake recipes for best results. For more tips and recipes for the fall and Halloween season, visit McCormick.com or look for McCormick Spice on Pinterest and Facebook.

GLAZED AUTUMN LEAF COOKIES

Prep time: 30 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 36 cookies

2 ¾ cups flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon McCormick Ground Cinnamon

½ teaspoon McCormick Ground Nutmeg

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

1 ½ cups sugar

1 egg

2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

2 teaspoons McCormick Maple Extract

Preheat oven to 325°F. Mix flour, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg in medium bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and sugar in large

bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg, vanilla and maple extract; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed.

Roll dough on generously floured surface to ¼-inch thickness. Cut out leaves with 2- to 3-inch leaf-shaped cookie cutters. Place on ungreased baking sheets.

Bake 8 to 10 minutes or until edges start to brown. Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

Prepare desired colors of glazes. Decorate cooled cookies with glazes.

Glaze Variations: For the variations below, dissolve the designated amount of the Color from Nature Food Colors with water in small bowl. Stir in any remaining ingredients until smooth.

To glaze cookies, hold a cookie by its edge and dip the top into the glaze. (Or spoon the glaze onto cookies using a teaspoon.) Place iced cookies on wire rack set over foil-covered baking sheet to dry. (The foil-covered baking sheet will catch drips.) Let stand until glaze is set.

Maroon Cookie Glaze: Use ½ teaspoon Berry color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors, 3 tablespoons water (plus additional to dissolve color), 2 cups confectioners' sugar and 1 teaspoon cocoa powder.

Forest Green Cookie Glaze: Use 1/2 teaspoon Sky Blue color and 1/4 teaspoon Sunflower color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors, 3 tablespoons water (plus additional to dissolve color), 2 cups confectioners' sugar and 1 teaspoon cocoa powder.

Pumpkin Cookie Glaze: Use 1 teaspoon Sunflower color and 1/4 teaspoon Berry color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors, 3 tablespoons water (plus additional to dissolve color) and 2 cups confectioners' sugar.

TEST KITCHEN TIPS:

- Use glaze soon after preparing. Do not refrigerate glaze, as it will begin to harden.
- Allow glaze to dry before storing cookies in airtight containers.



SPICED CARAMEL APPLE CIDER

Prep time: 5 minutes
Servings: 4

- 4 cups apple cider
- 1/4 cup caramel topping
- 1 teaspoon McCormick Apple Pie Spice
- 2 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

Bring apple cider, caramel topping and apple pie spice to simmer in medium saucepan. Stir in vanilla.

Pour into serving cups. Serve topped with whipped cream, additional caramel topping and apple pie spice, if desired.

Flavor Variations: For the variations below, use the following extract in place of the vanilla:

Spiced Caramel Orange Cider: Use 1/4 teaspoon McCormick Pure Orange Extract.

Spiced Caramel Maple Cider: Use 3/4 teaspoon McCormick Maple Extract.

Spiced Caramel Rum Cider: Use 3/4 teaspoon McCormick Rum Extract.

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PUMPKIN PATCH CUPCAKES

Prep time: 30 minutes

Servings: 24 cupcakes

2 cups (4 sticks) butter, softened
4 teaspoons McCormick Pure Vanilla Extract

2 boxes (16 ounces each) confectioners' sugar, sifted
3 tablespoons milk

1 ½ teaspoons Sunflower color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors, divided

¼ teaspoon Berry color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors

1 teaspoon Sky Blue color from McCormick Color from Nature - Assorted Food Colors

24 unfrosted cupcakes

12 regular marshmallows, halved crosswise

12 small chocolate flavored taffy rolls (Tootsie Roll), halved crosswise

Beat butter and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Gradually add confectioners' sugar, beating well after each addition and scraping sides and bottom of bowl frequently. Add milk; beat until light and fluffy.

Remove 2 cups of the frosting into medium microwavable bowl. Tint frosting orange using 1 teaspoon Sunflower color and 1/4 teaspoon Berry color. Set aside.

Tint remaining frosting green using 1 teaspoon Sky Blue color and remaining 1/2 teaspoon Sunflower color. Spread top of cupcakes with green frosting. Using a fork, gently touch frosting in different directions to resemble grass spikes.

To make the pumpkins, microwave the orange frosting on HIGH 10 to 20 seconds or until runny. Using a fork, dip marshmallow halves into frosting mixture, then place on top of frosted cupcakes. Let stand until pumpkin frosting has dried. Press a tootsie roll half in center of each pumpkin for the stem. Decorate leaves and vines with remaining green frosting, if desired. *

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BY DAYNA DEL VAL

My life's radius

I recently biked roughly half a mile from my house, and I had one of those “my life washed over me” moments. It dawned on me that every significant thing that has happened to me in the last 20 years has happened in about a two-mile radius. My world has been both incredibly small and expansively huge inside that space. My son, Quinn, was born at the hospital down the road. I remember looking out at the bare January trees along the river while holding that tiny, new human being. I was both certain and uncertain about the journey we were about to embark upon together.

My first little apartment was walking distance from there. I walked and rocked him in that cozy nest. Then we moved three blocks west to a larger apartment, situated up in the trees.

At the same time, we moved my grandma into a nursing home directly across the street. Through the bare winter trees, I could see her eating breakfast from Quinn's bedroom window. I was watching life grow and decay simultaneously. My best friend

and her daughter moved into the apartment below us. We raised our kids together; they had a sibling, and we had a partner to assist in the difficult work of parenting. We lived this way for nine fabulous years.

I walked my son to his first day of kindergarten and watched in horror as the second plane hit the Twin Towers on September 11 from there. I met and fell in love with my now-husband while living there. My mom and I were with my grandma when she died, and I sadly walked back across the street to that apartment. I bought our house almost exactly one mile from that apartment. I got married in our church a few blocks from my house. My beloved step-dad died in palliative care two blocks from my house. My mom and I were with him that night, and I sadly walked back home again. People often assume that I am not “from here.” I have to laugh because what they don't know is that my “from here” is even smaller than they think. But all in all, my two-mile radius has given me an enormously big life. ✨





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