Ashtabula COUNTY Home Show

March 8, 9, 10
Ashtabula Towne Square

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Home Show set to be 'biggest ever' once again

BY MAT HUTTON
mhutton@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP — The annual Ashtabula County Home Show will mark its 30th anniversary this weekend, March 8-10.

The 2019 show will take place at Ashtabula Towne Square during regular mall hours — 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Show Coordinator Bob Schultz said as of Monday they had 65 vendors and 84 spaces — the largest home show they've ever had.

"Last year was the biggest, this year is even better," he said, adding it was a product of "hard work, effort" and a "tremendous outreach" on social media, particularly Facebook.

Several other changes — returning the show to three days instead of two and switching it to second weekend in March so it wasn't competing with Lake County show — also helped with attendance.

In addition, he said word of mouth attracts vendors and crowds — last year the crafters who participated completely sold out of their products.

"Stores that are in the mall ... they do better than Christmas," Schultz said.

This is the second year Schultz has been in charge of the Home Show, and the 30th year for the event overall.

They have 45 "regular businesses" such as waterproofing, windows, gutters and insulation, the most ever. Many will offer sales or special deals during the Home Show.

In addition, the show features many homemade crafters and non-profits.

"We open up to non-profits too — they're operating under a limited budget, this gives them an opportunity to get some visibility," he said, adding, overall, "I think the entire mall is full this year."

FILE

Tim Volpone, president and general manager of Ziegler Heating Co., (facing) talks with Lori Welch of Ashtabula during the 2018 Ashtabula County Home Show.

In fact, as of Monday vendors were still calling to see if they could get in. Schultz said they will try to accommodate any vendor they can.

"I expect next year will be even bigger," he said.

Though some vendors are national or regional, the idea behind the Home Show is to showcase local business.

"The purpose of our Chamber and our show is to promote local business. We might have some companies from New York or Cleveland, but when you have thousands of people come in that benefits people who are in the mall," he said.

On top of the vendors, all seven county Chambers of Commerce are involved and purchased 10 $50 gift certificates and spring flowers from Ash/Craft to be offered as door prizes and raffles.

Warmer weather forecasted for weekend could prompt those looking forward to spring and summer projects to get out of the house — though Schultz said weather isn't always a factor. Several years ago the mall was so crowded it actually had to clear snow to create more parking spaces to handle the crowd.

Schultz credited the mall for being an excellent partner.

"Shoutout to Cindy Dunbar and Ken Kister at the mall," he said. "They just bend over backwards to work with us. Without their help and cooperation we couldn't pull this off."

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Canter's Classic offers 'A-Z in lawn care'

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Canter's Classic and Weed Man Lawn Care Inc. serves numerous counties in northeastern Ohio and northwestern Pennsylvania. (From left) Doug Canter (standing), president; Georgeann Canter, vice president is holding Marley Mae; Dylan Canter, technician and Marlene Canter, customer service representative.

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER
bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — Canter's Classic Lawn Care, which will be at this year's Ashtabula Home Show, works to have all-around lawn care needs covered.

"This is our 29th year in business," Doug Canter, owner and president, said.

"We're up to 25 employees serving the county."

Canter's Classic Lawn Care was founded in 1990 and has been growing since then.

This year, they will have a booth at the Ashtabula Home Show to draw in potential customers.

"It brings people out," Canter said. "We always enjoy meeting new people."

Canter's Classic Lawn Care specializes in mowing, mulch, landscaping, irrigation and fertilization, he said. Canter's also provides snow clearing services in the winter.

Additionally, Canter purchased a local Weed Man Lawn Care franchise, along with Crowley's Vegetation Management.

The three businesses "do everything from A-Z in lawn care," Canter said.

Crowley's and Weed Man both have certain specialties.

"(Canter's) does everything the other ones don't," he said.

Crowley's Vegetation Management, founded in 1974, sprays guardrails with herbicide for several counties and local governments.

In addition, Crowley's has been working with Cleveland Metroparks and Cleveland Natural History Museum.

Weed Man Lawn Care offers fertilization services, in addition to pest and weed control services.

Weed Man is an international chain, and was founded in Canada in 1970, according to the Weed Man website.

Canter's various businesses service 1,600 customers in the six counties they serve.

> **'This is our 29th year in business. We're up to 25 employees serving the county.'**
>
> **Doug Canter**
> Canter's Classic Lawn Care owner, president

There is quite a bit going on under the hood at Canter's office, with three businesses under the same umbrella.

"It is (busy)," Canter said, "but we have four department managers" who make it easier.

Canter's Classic Lawn Care focuses its efforts on Ashtabula County, while the other businesses work all around northeast Ohio and northwest Pennsylvania.

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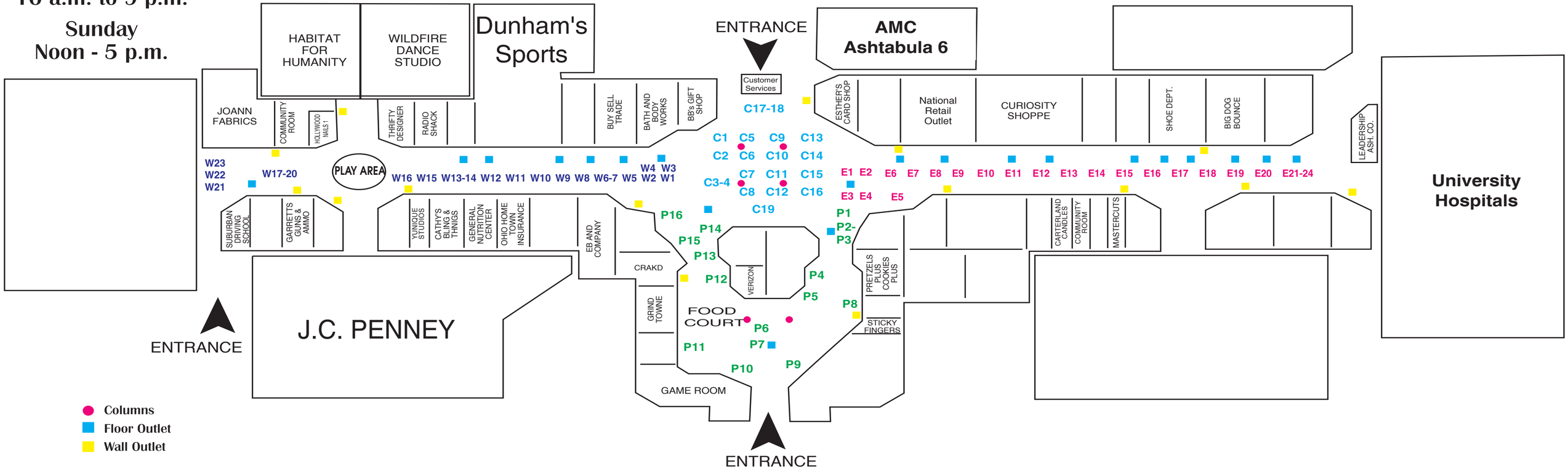

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W4. Lowes
W5. WKKY Radio
W6-7. WSA, Inc.
W8, Assured Real Estate
W9. Holly'e Hearing Aid Center
W10. Cutco Cutlery
W11. Canters Classic & WeedMan Lawn Care
W12. Ohio State Waterproofing
W13-14. Universal Window Direct
W15. Berkshire Hathaway Professional Realty
W16. Ashtabula Community Action
W17-20. Cherry Valley Furniture
W21. Ashtabla County Community Services & Planning
W22.Conneaut Fish & Game Club
W23. Ohio Can Step of Change

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C3-4. Zigler Heating
C5. Wilkinson Paving
C6. Gutter Helmet Systems
C7. Bath Fitter
C8. Pella Windows & Doors
C9. Crawford Insurance Agency
C10. Leaf Home Safety Solutions
C11. Kitchen Saver
C12. MC Lawn Care
C13. Andover Bank
C14. ATT
C15. Gutter Logic of Ohio
C16. USA Installation
C17-18. Window Nation
C19. Media One

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P3. Ashtabula County District Library
P4. Relay for Life
P5. AshCraft Industries
P6. Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus
P7. A-Tech Horticulture
P8. Ohio Sugar & Spice
P9. Leaffilter North, LLC
P10. First United Church of Christ of Austinburg
P11. 4-H Ashtabula County
P12. Raymond Builders
P13. Star Beacon
P14. Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival
P15. Rose Society of Ashtabula County
P16. Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency

East Wing

E1. Gazette Newspapers
E2. McDowell Homes Real Estate Services
E3. First Ohio Home Finance
E4. Window Depot of Youngstown
E5. Tracy David
E6. For the Health of It
E7. Savvy Sisters
E8. Trapper Bob, LLC
E9. Thirty-One Gifts
E10. Signature HomeStyles
E11. Party Lite
E12. doTerra Essential Oils
E13. Larry Hallgren
E14. Nada Kozjek
E15. Kelly's Korner
E16. Rayann Church
E17. K9 Confectionary
E18. Handmade Crafts by Nah
E19. Pat Hunter & Conversation Station
E20. Love 4 Legos Jewelry Design
E21-24. Geneva-on-the-Lake Chamber/CVB

Assured Real Estate keeps it local

BY JON WYSOCHANSKI
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JEFFERSON — Broker Raegan Hagerdon of Assured Real Estate said as her business enters its second year this May, she is happy to have set out to build a local real estate company with a focus on the needs of people in the area.

For Hagerdon, the Ashtabula County Home Show, March 8-10 at the Ashtabula Towne Square, is a place to connect with and help people while at the same time building the business.

There seems to be a trend in more Realtors setting out to create their own local, hometown businesses, Hagerdon said, though she added there is nothing wrong with the bigger companies.

"We are just shy of two years in business," said Hagerdon, a 23-year veteran of the real estate business. "I wanted to get away from the big franchises. I felt that we could give better service and the consumer could get more for their money with a local brokerage."

Last year, Assured Real Estate did 225 transactions and more than $25 million in sales. As a brokerage they were third in the county withy eight agents, Hagerdon said. Though the company has its main focus in Ashtabula County, they do service Lake Trumbull and Geauga counties as well.

Assured Real Estate agents will be at the home show to answer any questions people might have about buying or selling a home, or the current market in general. People can get help with residential sales, vacant land, foreclosures, short sales, commercial real estate, hunting lands and any other realty investments they might have questions about.

The company wants to convey its local approach, which is why a covered bridge is part of their logo. Participating in the home show is an essential part of networking and being a part of the market here, Hagerdon said.

Last year's show was beneficial to her company and people they met as well, she said. It is low inventory right now, and it is a great time to list because there is less competition.

"When you wait until spring or summer it gets flooded," Hagerdon said.

There are now 10 agents working at the company. To reach Assured Real Estate call 440-576-7355, or visit www.assuredrealestateoh.com.

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Rose Society aims to grow at Home Show

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER
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JEFFERSON — Ed Zasadzinski admits he has a problem with roses.

"I had an argument with roses in 1983, and I got an infection, called rose addiction," he said.

Since then, Zasadzinski has been planting roses, and now, as Ashtabula County Rose Society president, he seeks to help educate people about the plant.

Ashtabula County's Rose Society was officially formed in March 2018, and since then, the group has worked to explain to people that roses aren't difficult or intimidating.

"They're just a bush with a lot of flowers," Zasadzinski said.

There are 14 classifications of roses and 10,000 varieties within those classifications. Many of them are able to survive northeast Ohio's climate, he said.

"The purpose of our society is to educate and spread knowledge," he said, adding he was eager to share that knowledge.

He was effusive about the variety of roses, saying they come in all colors and sizes. For instance, there are rose bushes that are only 8 inches tall.

There are also massive rose trees. The largest rose tree in the world is in Tombstone, Arizona, Zasadzinski said.

SUBMITTED

The Rose Society of Ashtabula County's 2019 officers are (from left) President Ed Zasadzinski, Editor Eileen Epling, Treasurer John Werner, Vice-President Jane English and Secretary Beth Cool.

According to the Rose Tree Museum, which houses the massive tree, the rose grew from a cutting shipped over from Scotland, and it has flourished in the Arizona heat. According to the museum, the rose tree covers 5,000 square feet, and is recognized in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest rose plant in the world.

Zasadzinski said the proper soil makeup for roses is important. To flourish, roses need the soil to be 25 percent air and 25 percent water.

"If you have (lousy) soil, you get (lousy) roses," he said.

At this year's Home Show, the Rose Society will bring an A-frame with 100 varieties of roses on it, as well as a cart and two Belinda's Dream roses, both of which will be raffled away on Sunday night. Belinda's Dream roses do well in Ashtabula County's climate, Zasadzinski said.

Zasadzinski is the consulting rosarian for the Rose Society of Ashtabula County, and he writes often on the subject of roses and their history.

The Rose Society has recently joined the American Rose Society, and the Buckeye Rose District.

While some people have a favorite rose, Zasadzinski said he has broad tastes.

"I'm into any rose that smells good," he said.

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Wilkinson Paving returns to the Home Show

BY SHELLEY TERRY
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ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP — Celebrating more than 50 years in business, Wilkinson Paving will be at the Ashtabula County 2019 Home Show on March 8-10 at Ashtabula Towne Square.

In 1968, Al Wilkinson started the company, 1911 Virginia Ave., Ashtabula. He worked with his brother, Archie Wilkinson, who had an excavation company in Ashtabula for years, most notably, he developed the land around the mall area. Then Archie Wilkinson moved the company south and Al stayed in town, got a loan from the bank and bought a paver, roller and dust control truck.

Today, Al Wilkinson's son, Ron, and grandson, R. Jay Wilkinson, run the company offering customers many services, including demolition, excavation, parking lots, driveways, removing and replacing old parking bumpers with new concrete or plastic bumpers, parking lot striping, crack fill with hot sealant, seal coating and snow plowing.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wilkinson Paving in Ashtabula will have an information booth at the Ashtabula County 2019 Home Show March 8-10 at Ashtabula Towne Square. Here, Wilkinson work crews are applying asphalt to street last summer.

The company employs 15 people.

"I have done the Home Show before and I enjoy when older people come up to me and say, 'I know the guy who started this company, he did my driveway in the '70' or '80s,'" R. Jay Wilkinson said. "Then I say, 'Yeah that's my grandfather,' and then people will tell me stories about my grandfather."

Wilkinson said everyone who comes by their booth at the Home Show compliments their grandfather's work.

"Many people say he did the best work possible and their driveway still holds up very well to this day," he said. "Some of them knew him personally, from the Veterans of Foreign Wars or the boat club down in the harbor docks. They tell me stories about him that I would never have known about."

Folks unfamiliar with Wilkinson's work don't need to look any further than the parking lots at Ashtabula Towne Square, Edgewood Dairy Queen, Grumpy Grandpa's, Nassief's or Wendy's restaurant in Ashtabula.

Wilkinson said he likes his job and hopes to meet new customers at the Home Show.

"I like being outside, traveling all over Ashtabula County, meeting customers from all walks of life," he said. "I go down back roads in this county that I would never go down or didn't know existed before. It's always nice meeting fellow veterans and hearing where they were stationed and what war they were in."

For more information on Wilkinson Paving, call 440-998-7283.

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Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival to cast spell

BY SHELLEY TERRY
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ASHTABULA TOWNSHIP — Visitors to the Ashtabula County 2019 Home Show will get a sneak peek at the magical land and cast of characters planned for this summer's second annual Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival in Jefferson.

The Ohio Fairy Gardening group will host the festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 8 at Giddings Park, on East Jefferson Street next to the Jefferson Village Police Station. The festival is part of the Jefferson Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This will be a huge, family-friendly event and a blast for the whole family," said Julie Cole, a fairy gardener from Jefferson, who's organizing the festival. "Adults, children, pets — come dressed in your 'fairy' best costumes, it doesn't matter whether you enter the costume contest."

Last year, more than 1,000 people attended the festival.

Cole encourages people to stop by the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival booth at the Ashtabula County Home Show to meet Rachel Keith, one of the premier fairy artisans who was featured in the New York Times and Channel 8 Morning Show last year. "She will give you one of our fliers to share at schools, libraries or churches," she said. "The booth also will display beautiful fairy garden items you can expect to see at the festival."

The festival will feature an adult and children's costume contest, as well as an adult and children's fairy garden contest with fairy trophies and prizes for the top three in each category.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Plymouth Township resident Jan Sharp will dress up and bring her "unicorn" to the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival on June 8 at Giddings Park in Jefferson. Visitors to this year's Ashtabula County Home Show can stop by the festival booth to see all the festival will offer this year.

There will be lots of free events at the festival, including face painting, a children's craft table, coloring contests, pet costume contests, fairy gardening demonstrations and a Fairy Godmother and Miss Ohio Fairy Gardening will be crowned. The winners will represent the festival where ever they go and all the information one needs to enter will be at the Home Show, Cole said.

Cole expects the festival's live miniature (horse) "unicorn" will be a big hit, as well as alpacas to that people can pet and feed. Free photographs will be allowed.

The Array Of Light dance team will perform fairy dance routines and give hula hoop workshops for young and old.

Fairy gardens, plants and crafts, as well as plenty of food, will be available from vendors. Admission and parking will be free.

For more information, stop by the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival booth at the Home Show in Ashtabula Towne Square or go to www.ohiofairygardening.com or email ohiofairygardeningfestival@gmail.com for the vendor application.

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