

Spring Home

May 2025

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO

STAR BEACON



"Open for the Season" • Your Spring Flowers Shopping Headquarters



Scheduling spring cleanups, lawn services, mulching & landscape installations!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK



KELLY'S GARDENS

SIMPLY PARADISE

4220 N. Ridge West, Saybrook, Ohio
(440) 969-1114 • www.kellysgardens.com

Governments assist home owners in small ways

BY WARREN DILLAWAY

warren@starbeacon.com

Home improvement work is an owner-driven initiative, but government assists homeowners in a

variety of ways.

One way local governments assist a homeowner is through tax abatements.

In Conneaut, homeowners can fill out a

form, through the Community Reinvestment Area, which can lead to tax exempt possibilities for a homeowner building a house or conducting remodeling work, Con-

neaut City Manager Nick Sanford said.

"We certainly offer benefits through the citywide Community Reinvestment Area in the form of tax abatements on property reinvestments during the planning phase," he said.

Sanford said the city would like to get more people involved in the program.

"It was established in 2005 during the Doug Lewis administration and

city council at that time, and made effective in the codified ordinances in Chapter 1381," he said.

Sanford said it is available to all property classes, and is a tremendous reinvestment and economic development tool.

Ashtabula City Manager Jim Timonere said the city offers some tax abatement options for home remodeling.

He said the city encourages people to remodel homes to improve an

aging housing stock.

Geneva City Manager Joseph Varckette said the city's comprehensive plan, which is in the early stages of funding and planning, will address quality of housing issues as it develops.

An improvement to property is also funded on a sidewalk reimbursement program, Varckette said. He said information on how the project works is available on the city's website, genevaohio.gov.

A Rainbow of Design Options for Your Home

Premium Paints & Stains
Wallpaper & Borders | Painting Supplies
Window Treatments

**J & W
Paint Co.**

The perfect mix of Quality, Price and Service...Since 1961!

5836 Woodman Ave. | Ashtabula 440-997-0905 | www.jandwpaint.com



PORT CONNEAUT FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

*Looking to Make Some
Home Improvements?*

Ask About Our
Home Equity Loans!



www.portconnfcu.com

1002 Broad Street
Conneaut

440-593-7350

4220 Main Avenue
Ashtabula

440-992-7181

Audio Response 440-593-7355



"We Make Doors Great Again"

Garage Doors & Openers

Residential • Commercial

440 • 964 • DOOR
440 • 478 • 1930

★ AMERICAN MADE

★ AMERICAN PRIDE

"In God We Trust"

Local family-owned roofing business operating since 1951

CHRISTOPHER GILLETT
cgillett@starbeacon.com

ASHTABULA — Hassett Family Roofing has been in business since 1951, serving many people across Ashtabula County.

Family roofing owner Mark Hassett said his father, Joe, started the independent roofing work after he was approached by an insurance man while working on a house's roof Union Avenue.

The insurance man took a liking to Joe, Mark Hassett said.

"The insurance man asked my dad if he would

do storm damage and repairs for the insurance companies, so my dad agreed to it," he said.

Hassett's father previously worked at the city docks at night.

Hassett said his father would load his tools into his Chevy and drive to small jobs on the side.

"In the 50s, it was a building boom," he said. "They were building all the houses in the 50s. He would stop and talk to builders and get the job of putting new roofs on houses being built."

Things moved quickly from there, Hassett said.

"He quit his job, hired in his brothers-in-law and his cousins, and was doing roofs," he said.

Joe Hassett received unexpected pushback, Mark said.

"Back then, there were several big roofing companies that kind of laughed at my dad, because he was working out of his car," he said. "Shortly after that, my dad had three Ford trucks, so my dad was a very honest hard-working guy, so people liked him."

Mark Hassett first started working for his father as a

SEE **ROOF**, 6

NM ROOFING AND CONSTRUCTION, LLC

SPECIALIZING IN METAL ROOFING



10 YEAR
LABOR
WARRANTY
ON
METAL
ROOFS

**Shingles - Complete Tear Offs
Repairs - Siding - Decks & Gutters**

**Fully Insured • FREE Estimates
Amish Owned and Operated Call:
1-440-904-0372**

You Define Your Success



- ✓ Industry Certifications
- ✓ Competitive Advantage
- ✓ Meaningful Experience

**Expand your
opportunities
in our
High School &
Adult programs.**



www.atech.edu

1565 State Route 167, Jefferson, OH 44047

The Ashtabula County Technical & Career Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disabilities, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Not taking luck for granted



Christopher Gillett

I consider myself lucky to live in a home. Many people my age, between the housing crisis, dysfunctional families, and systemic issues, or otherwise, do not have a meaningful place to call home. I also live in northeast

Ohio, a relatively cheap part of the country, compared to the West Coast, Southwest and Northeast. I do not try to take that luck for granted, and maybe because of my luck or despite it, keeping up with a home's maintenance can feel like a never-ending quest. I'm sure others can relate. Every few weeks or months or years, we often circle back to the same issues, and when you cap one problem, another one pops up. From septic repairs to internet outages to refrigerator replacements, it always feels like something needs to be done. That's not mentioning the long-term projects people have in mind for

their homes, where snags can come down to things outside their control, like emergency spending or the global economy. At the same time, we juggle work, weekly chores, family responsibilities and car repairs. It's extra fun when an issue develops right before the weekend, just when no one's open and you want to relax. If you live in an apartment, you might be calling your landlord, forced to wait for them to get back to you on fixing the pipes or calling the electrician or exterminator. Rural folk may live far from services, and have a hard time finding things like an internet provider or plumber, who has the

experience to serve them properly. Many of us may owe our living situations and where we live to our parents and grandparents, for better or worse. I remember growing up hearing stories inside and outside my family, about how the Greatest Generation got a trade school trial by fire, otherwise known as the Great Depression and Second World War. My late grandfather was among that generation. He always emphasized the importance of keeping your home organized and clean. In his old age, he kept many hobbies related to his home. Gardening was one of his favorite activities. I remember close to the end

of his life, having some of the tomatoes from his garden with him and other members of my family on his porch. That porch had been a project of his and a good friend, who passed away shortly before him. I still use that porch, but keeping up the garden has been challenge, not to say I haven't tried. I often feel behind, but none of that stops me from staying the course, and trying my best to get things done, and I remember that as bad as it feels to have something that needs to get fixed, it feels great when that thing is finally fixed.

ASHTABULA
VINYL Systems

Call for Free Estimate
440-576-8944
1-800-759-5164



See us for
WINDOWS · SIDING
DOORS · AWNINGS



Jefferson, Ohio 44047
Fully licensed & insured

Thomas Fence Co.
I N C O R P O R A T E D

Lake & Geauga
Counties
440-942-8548

Ashtabula County
440-998-4747

Erie, PA
814-835-0707

Quality Fence & Service for over 51 Years

Up to \$1,200 Tax Credit on Doors and Windows

For qualifying customers



Invest in today's most efficient and beautiful replacement windows and doors to enjoy comfort, convenience and savings for years to come.

Ask us about beautiful, low maintenance, long lasting  TimberTech®



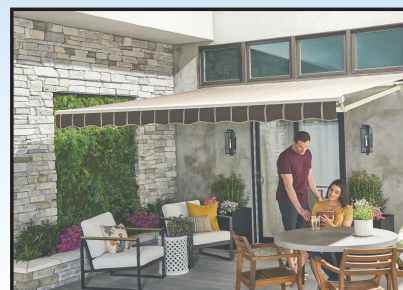
Performs better than wood every time!

Proudly Offering

Wholesale &
Retail Sales to
Homeowners,
Contractors
& DIY'ers!



Keep Your Cool!



See us for the best awnings under the sun... fabric or aluminum, retractable or fixed.

Made in Erie, PA • Installed by Your Local Professionals • Lifetime Warranty & Free Service!

See us for: Retractable & Fixed Awnings • Patio Tops • Entry Doors • Vinyl Siding
Vinyl Replacement Windows • Decking & Railing

"Serving Ashtabula County for 3 Generations!"



HOURS: M-F 8-4:30 • Evenings & Saturdays by Appt

4707 State Road, Ashtabula, Ohio

440-992-9181

Visit Us at www.weathersealco.com



Cash & Carry or
Professional Installation
By Certified Technicians



ROOF: Business has been in the family since 1951

FROM PAGE 3

teenager, he said.

“When I was about 13 or 14, I was home on summer vacation, and I heard my mom and dad arguing one morning,” he said. “What happened was two workers called off, and my dad had this big new house to do on Howard Road. What they were arguing about was my dad wanted me to come and help.”

Mark Hassett said his father won the argument.

“I got dragged out of bed,

and went to work,” he said. “We were doing this roof, and of course, we had it dried in. My dad was shingling it, and the other worker fell off the roof. So, my dad had to rush him to the hospital.”

Hassett said he was bored sitting on the roof alone and got to work.

“I looked at the shingle wrapper instructions, picked up my dad’s pouch and hammer, and started shingling,” he said. “When my dad got back, I must’ve done a good job, because he didn’t yell at

me. After that, it seems like I never got a day off.”

Hassett worked for his father every summer, he said.

“One summer, I wanted to at least have a couple days off to have some fun with my friends,” he said. “My dad told me ‘If you work every day, you can buy a car when you’re 16.’”

Hassett said his father followed through on that promise.

“My dad paid me good, I guess because he didn’t want to give me money, he wanted [me] to earn it,” he said. “My dad was a man of his word, and — of course cars were cheap then — I was able to buy a brand new Mustang.”

Hassett said his dad developed a reputation for honesty in the local community.

“He didn’t charge elderly people, like for a repair,” he said. “He fixed it for free.”

Hassett said his father’s reputation in the community

influenced his work long after he took it over.

“We’re doing this new house, it’s a little house in the Harbor, and at lunch time, the lady owner stopped [by], and I introduced myself,” he said. “I said ‘I’m really surprised you had me do this with no estimate.’”

Hassett said the lady told him his dad had fixed her family’s roof for free, while she grew up on Station Avenue.

“She always remembered that,” he said.

Since taking over from his father, Hassett has tried to continue his father’s work, he said.

“I could’ve moved the company to Lake County, and made a lot more money doing roofing, but because Ashtabula and the people, I’ve always stayed in Ashtabula,” he said.

Hassett has seen the roofing market evolve over his



CHRISTOPHER GILLET | STAR BEACON

Mark Hassett’s business, Hassett Family Roofing, was started by Hassett’s father, Joe, in 1951.

several years a part of it.

“We do a roof every day or two,” he said. “We’ve probably done 25,000 roofs. There’s been houses we’ve done three times — same house, but for different owners.”

Hassett said he has worked on many other buildings across the county, and made great memories.

“One time we were doing

this big high condo. They’re like four stories high,” he said. “We got this 40-foot ladder stretched all the way, and one of my workers goes ‘Uh oh you’re in trouble.’ My mother had heard I was on this dangerous job. You see this El Dorado pulling into the parking lot, and you see her screaming at me, because it’s this dangerous job.”

Cherry Valley Stoves, LLC

OPEN
Mon., Tues.,
Wed., Fri.
7am - 4pm
Sat. 7am - 3pm
Closed Thurs. & Sun.

The flame that keeps you warm

5391B Hayes Rd.,
Andover, OH 44003
(440) 293-4622
www.cherryvalleystoves.com

NEED HELP NOW?

Call Your Local Plumbing Professionals

WHERE A FLUSH BEATS A FULL HOUSE

GIERMAN PLUMBING

2521 W. 13th St., Ashtabula
440-964-2727

24/7 SERVICE • RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

CONTACT US TODAY FOR ALL OF YOUR HEATING AND COOLING NEEDS



440-998-7252
Have-inc.com

SERVICING ASHTABULA COUNTY AND SURROUNDING AREAS SINCE 1975
FINANCING AVAILABLE • MVP VALUE PLAN



bryant Factory Authorized Dealer
Heating & Cooling Systems

Gutter company long-time family business

BY WARREN DILLAWAY
warren@starbeacon.com

AUSTINBURG TOWN-SHIP — A small family business has been attending to the needs of home owners for more than 30 years.

Lake Erie Seamless Gutters has been in business for 34 years, tending to the needs of homeowners throughout the region.

“It is a family-run business,” said Kim Rockwell, who owns the company with her husband, Chris.

She said Chris’ parents, Joe and Nancy Rockwell, started the business 34 years ago. She and her husband took over and have continued to operate it.

“We have a strong work ethic,” Kim Rockwell said of the company.

She said they prefer to keep the business small, and work hard to maintain customers.

“Most of our business is by reputation,” Rockwell said.

She said they try to be

detail-oriented and highly professional.

“We are not the cheapest contractor,” she said.

Rockwell said the gutters are manufactured on-site.

A relatively new product has been added to the business during the last several years.

“We also have snow guards,” Rockwell said of the products that can keep ice from rushing off a roof and damaging gutters. She said that has become an increasingly in-demand product the last four years, as more people install metal roofs.

The last five months have been especially interesting for Lake Erie Seamless Gutters, as the 2024 Thanksgiving weekend snowstorm changed the rhythm of the business. Rockwell said December and early winter is usually a slow time, but that was not the case following the storm.

“We’ve seen increase of calls around the storm,” she

said. “This year, there was no break.”

Because of the continued cold weather, and more snow, it was difficult to complete the jobs.

“We couldn’t get to the jobs,” Rockwell said.

An additional problem was many people decided to wait for the weather to break to call in for assis-

tance, creating another problem.

“We had a two-month waiting list,” Rockwell said.

She said the company presently has three employ-

ees, and that number can fluctuate, but never over six.

“We are a small company and we like it that way,” Rockwell said.



**NO POWER AGAIN?
WELL IT'S NOT OVER!**

YOU CAN CONTROL WHEN YOUR POWER COMES ON!

**WITH GENERAC AUTOMATIC
STANDBY GENERATORS**

- HOME or BUSINESS
- PERMANENTLY INSTALLED on Natural Gas or Propane
- 24/7 PROTECTION

*Generac's Highest Reviews in OHIO.
Before You Sign Anything, Call Us.*

**America's #1
Selling Generator**



GeneratorPros.com

Shepp Electric Co., Inc./Sales, Parts and Service

877-423-9010



GENERAC®

**POWER
PRO PREMIER**

**Help mom get her
Spring Projects
Completed.**



**42oz. Plush
Carpet**

\$344

Sq. Ft. & Up includes carpet, pad, installation

**Waterproof
IN STOCK Plank**

\$225

Sq. Ft. & Up **limited quantities

BARTER HOUSE DESIGN CENTER

440-964-7770

"NEVER UNDERSOLD BY ANYBODY, ANYTIME"

1477 Bridge Street, Ashtabula

ALL SOLID HARDWOOD FURNITURE

Cherry Valley

Furniture, LLC



The Barn Store

Bulk Foods



5391 Hayes Rd.
Andover, Ohio 44003
440-293-6736
HOURS: MON-SAT 8AM-4PM | CLOSED SUNDAY

BEDROOM SETS



DINING ROOM SETS



GLIDERS



BULK FOODS



TV STANDS



HALL SEAT
LOCKER



ROCK LEDGE
FIREPLACE



BUNK BEDS



RECLINERS



ISLAND CABINET



FIRE PITS



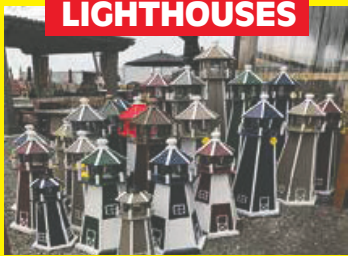
COFFEE & END TABLES



OFFICE FURNITURE

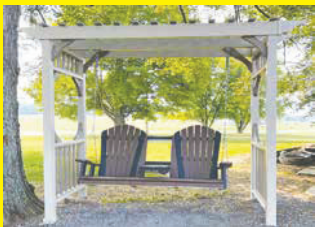


LIGHTHOUSES



If you have
furniture on your
mind, better quality
is hard to find

OUTDOOR
FURNITURE



WHY BUY
POLY?

- Maintenance Free • 20 Year Warranty
- All Stainless Steel Fasteners So It Will Not Rust
- Quality, Comfort & Design For Your Backyard

Our Goal is to
Give You Quality
From Our Family
to Yours!!!

cherryvalleyamishfurniture.com