

spring HOME & GARDEN

March 2021

A Special Supplement to

STAR BEACON



25 Month • NO INTEREST • Equal Payments

ON ALL NEW HOME HVAC!

FOR AS LITTLE AS \$11 PER DAY

YOU CAN HAVE A NEW HEATING/COOLING SYSTEM INSTALLED!

ALL ESTIMATES ARE FREE. CALL US AT 440-969-1141



TRANE

It's Hard To Stop A Trane®

**SERVICING ASHTABULA, LAKE AND
GEAUGA COUNTIES FOR 82 YEARS!**

**EQUIPMENT
INSTALLATIONS!**



Ohio License #23328

When to plant your garden in Ohio

BY SHELLEY TERRY

sterry@starbeacon.com

Planting vegetable seeds or transplants at the right time is important to getting the most out of your garden. Knowing your first and last frost dates will help you start your vegetable seeds at the right time.

Start with cool-season vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, beets and peas that can tolerate lower soil temperatures, even a frost.

Master gardeners suggests beginning with transplants for broccoli

and cabbage, either grown from seeds indoors or from a garden center.

Warmer season crops such as tomatoes, squash, sweet corn, peppers, cucumbers and beans should be planted when the soil reaches 55 degrees or higher and the threat of frost, typically in late May.

Want to learn more?

The Ohio State University Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program provides intensive training in horticulture to interested Ohio residents, who

then volunteer their time assisting with educational programs and activities for Ohio residents through their local OSU Extension county office. Volunteers are not required to have gardening skills or knowledge; but a passion for learning about gardening and sharing this knowledge with others is a must.

Working with county extension personnel, Master Gardener Volunteers provide educational services to their communities, such as answering gardening questions from the



Knowing when to plant is one of the first keys to cultivating a successful garden. Deciding whether to start with seeds or transplants is also important.

public; conducting plant clinics; gardening activities with children, senior citizens or disabled persons; beautifying the community, and developing community or demonstration gardens.

More information about state-level Master Gardener Volunteer

programs and activities is available at <http://mastergardener.osu.edu>.

The Ashtabula County Master Gardeners offer educational outreach throughout the year in a variety of manners. The Master Gardeners conduct community classes,

have speakers bureau, and work in school enrichment. The Master Gardeners also will speak to community groups upon request. The Master Gardeners can tailor their presentation to the needs of your group or provide a program which is ready to go. Call 440-576-9008 for more information.

Call the Ashtabula County Master Gardener Volunteer Helpline for all your gardening and insect questions on Monday from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. until noon (May through October) at 440-576-9008 ext. 9. Trained Master Gardener Volunteers will research your question or ask you to submit a sample for accurate diagnosis.



Need Help With Your Energy Bill?

Program Ends March 31st!

APPLY NOW!

Call for an appointment

1-440-381-8230

1. Make an Appointment (All Appointments Will Be Done By Phone)

2. Provide your Documents Drop-off-By mail-By Fax

3. Be available by phone at your appointment time

Or call 2-1-1 for more information



Follow us



Visit our website... www.accaa.org

Your Home Should Be Your Castle.



Make It More Comfortable With Our Indoor Air Quality Products.

CALL US TO FIND OUT MORE!

J&S HEATING & Cooling

Rock Creek (440) 563-3985 OH LIC. #12168

Prompt Professional Service Since 1976

Compost: Part of circle of life for gardens

The season for fresh fruits and vegetables grown right in the backyard is upon us. Warm weather breathes life into fresh berries, tomatoes, eggplant, cucumbers, and many other delectable fruits and vegetables.

Home gardens can be supplemented with delicious finds from the supermarket or farmer's market, including melons, corn and more.

The bounty of the garden can be made more abundant and fruitful with the addition of the right soil amendments. Compost is a key element of rich, nutritious soil. Scraps from items that have been grown in the garden can then be reused in the production of the compost that feeds that same garden. It's a continuous circle of garden life.

Getting started with compost is relatively easy. Homeowners should choose an outdoor space near the garden but far away from the home so that it won't be disturbed by kids or animals. Some people opt for an open compost pile, while others choose closed bins to contain the possible smell and to camouflage the compost. A sunny spot will help the compost to devel-



Compost is a key element of rich, nutritious soil. Scraps from items that have been grown in the garden can then be reused in the production of the compost that feeds that same garden.

op faster, according to Good Housekeeping.

The next step is to start gathering the scraps and materials that will go into the compost. Better Homes and Gardens suggests keeping a bucket or bin in the kitchen to accumulate kitchen scraps. Here are some kitchen-related items that can go into the compost material:

- Eggshells
- Fruit peels
- Vegetable peels and scraps
- Coffee grounds
- Shredded newspaper

In addition to these materials, grass and plant clippings, dry leaves, bark chips, straw, and sawdust from untreated wood can go into the pile. Avoid diseased plants, anything with animal fats, dairy products, and pet feces.

A low-maintenance pile has an equal amount of brown and green plant matter in the compost plus moisture to keep the bacteria growing and eating at the right rate. Aerating the compost occasionally, or turning the bin when possible, will allow the compost to blend and work together. Compost will take a few months to form completely, says the Planet Natural Research Center. The finished product will resemble a dark, crumbly soil that smells like fresh earth.

Compost will not only add nutrients to garden soil, but also it can help insulate plants and may prevent some weed growth. It is a good idea to start a compost pile as a free source of nutrition for plants and a method to reduce food waste in an environmentally sound way.

ACHIEVE MORE



Earn Industry Credentials



Gain a competitive advantage for college and the workforce!

Apply Now! www.atech.edu



Contact Ms. Schumann at 440-576-6015, ext. 1115 or amanda.schumann@atech.edu

1565 State Rt. 167. Jefferson, OH 44047 • 440-576-6015

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.

Fairy gardening sure to cast a spell on local gardeners

BY SHELLEY TERRY
sterry@starbeacon.com

JEFFERSON — Fairy gardening is sure to cast a spell on local gardeners at the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival on June 19 at Giddings Park.

Fairy gardening is a hobby that has swept the world with more than 13,000 members in a Facebook group called Fairy Garden World. These miniature gardens consist of small landscapes filled with small plants, and trinkets designed to attract fairies to a garden.

"It is a wonderful hobby because everything is done in miniature," said Julie Cole, a fairy gardener from Jefferson, who organizes the

annual festival. "There is no back-breaking garden work because you can do it on a tabletop. It is so fun to share it with children; it is magical. Fairies don't indulge in politics, religion, or any social issues, they are just fairies who go about their hidden, magical life."

It is a hobby enjoyed by adults and children alike. Cole started offering classes to adults and children to make fairy gardens in her shed called, The Whimsical Fairy.

"The hobby has snowballed for me," she said. "In 2019, Channel 3 TV came out and filmed a fairy gardening segment at my home. It was so much fun."

The Wall Street Jour-

nal also contacted Cole about an article on fairy gardening.

"It made the front page! Fairy gardening who would have thought?" she said. "I get so much pleasure sharing the hobby with my grandchildren. I just want others to be able to enjoy it too."

Cole became interested in Fairy gardening six years ago after visiting her brother, John, and seeing his miniature gardens. He took Cole to a nearby nursery where he gets all his supplies. She found all kinds of fairies and fairy garden items. She went home and started creating all kinds of fairy gardens in the backyard

SEE **GARDENERS**, 5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Plymouth Township resident Jan Sharp will dress up and bring her "unicorn" to the Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival on June 19 at Giddings Park in Jefferson. Visitors can learn all about how they can start their own fairy garden, or buy one already made. There also will be costume contests, crafts, food, entertainment and plenty of fairy items for sale.

Simak

TRUCKING & EXCAVATING, INC.

"Serving & Supporting the Community Since 1956."

Washed Gravel • Crushed Concrete

Screened Topsoil • Limestone

Asphalt Grindings • Landscaping Stones

PICK UP OR
DELIVERY

OUR SERVICES:

- Excavating • Driveways • Land Clearing • Basements Dug
- Septic Systems & Sewer • Foundations • Demolition • Lake Erosion

A "Stone Slinger" will save you time & money

Commercial • Residential • Insured & Licensed



www.simaktruckinginc.com



3052 E. Center St. N. Kingsville (440) 224-1992

GOT A NEWS TIP?

CALL US!

440-994-3243

GARDENERS: Fairy gardening sure to cast a spell

FROM PAGE 4

of her home.

The Ohio Fairy Garden Festival started four years ago after Cole visited a Fairy Festival in Florida. She came home and started planning and marketing for a local festival.

"We had the first festival at a nursery in Perry in 2018," she said. "I realized quickly that the venue wasn't big enough to host it. We had over 1,500 people come out on a rainy day."

A reporter for the New York Times came out and wrote a story on it. Channel 8 TV in Cleveland did a segment on it prior to the festival and it was a huge success, Cole said. "I talked with the Jefferson Area Chamber Of Commerce

to see if they would partner as the host, with me running it and they agreed. Andover Bank has been our corporate sponsor since the beginning and I cannot thank them enough."

The second year, 2019, was equally successful. The festival drew thousands to Giddings Park, 104 E. Jefferson St. in Jefferson. Admission is free and there's free parking.

"We have a contest to find our Fairy Godmother and Fairy Princess who stroll the grounds all day getting pictures with the children," she said. "We also had a live 'unicorn' to pet, feed and get pictures with, craft vendors, food vendors, free face painting, sponsored by the Jefferson Henderson Memorial Library, fairy

garden contests and fairy costume contests."

Last summer, the festival was canceled due to COVID-19 pandemic, but plans for the 2021 festival are on track to be bigger and better than ever, Cole said.

The 2021 Ohio Fairy Gardening Festival will boast an exciting addition — a fantasy art display and contest hosted by The Sandbar Art Studio from Texas.

"They have artists from over 100 countries submitting their art to be a part of this event," she said. "One artist is giving away a free sitting to one lucky person and his drawings start at \$2,100."

There will be many new craft and food vendors on site, as well.

In addition, the Jefferson Depot Strawberry

Festival will be taking place within walking distance that same weekend.

"We will have a free bounce house for the children and also new is singer/songwriter Amy Varckette, who will be singing from noon to 4 p.m. in our new Covered Bridge Pavilion," Cole said. "There will fairy dancers, face painting, and the unicorn will all be back."

There will be many fairy gardens on display and participants and attendees are encouraged to wear their fairy costumes. Jill Berry of New Lyme will be crowned the 2021 Fairy Godmother and Khyllie Stroke of New Lyme will be crowned fair princess.

"It really is a com-

munity event with so many small businesses and individuals helping out," Cole said. "All our helpers are volunteers. So come down to visit the festival and make sure to wear your fairy

best."

For more information, visit www.ohio-fairygardening.com or email organizers at ohiofairygardeningfestival@gmail.com. Vendor space is still available.

Know which type of projects require county permits and which do not

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

Some home and garden projects don't require a building permit, while others do.

Work exempted from approval still needs to comply with applicable provisions and rules, according to excerpts of the building code provided by the Ashtabula County Building Department.

According to building codes, detached structures used as tool

and storage sheds are exempt from permits, as long as their floor area does not exceed 200 square feet. Fences that do not exceed six feet in height and retaining walls that are not over four feet in height from the bottom of the footing are also exempt.

Swings and playground equipment do not need permits at one, two and three family dwellings, according to the code.

Decks less than 200 square feet, are no

more than 30 inches above the ground at any point, are not attached to a home, and do not serve the exit door are also exempt.

Sidewalks and drive-

ways less than 30 inches above ground level that are not over a basement are exempt from permitting.

Painting also does not require a permit.

WILKINSON PAVING

Over 50 Years
in Business!

1911 Virginia Ave.
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004
(440) 998-PAVE

wilkinsonpaving@windstream.net

FREE ESTIMATES
Complete Parking Lot
& Driveway Installation,
Maintenance & Repair

Asphalt • Concrete
Curbing • Seal Coating
Lot Striping • Drainage

StreetPrint
PAVING & SEALING

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Cub Cadet

ALL-AROUND STRENGTH



XT1™ LT42
LAWN TRACTOR

- 18 HP^{††} Kohler® single OHV engine
- 42" stamped mowing deck
- Tuff Torq® automatic hydrostatic transmission

STARTING AT:
\$1,799*

XT2™ GX50
GARDEN TRACTOR WITH
FABRICATED DECK

- 23 HP^{††} Kawasaki® FR691V engine
- 50" AeroForce™ fabricated mowing deck
- Tuff Torq® foot-controlled hydrostatic transmission (K58)

STARTING AT:
\$3,699*

Ultima™ ZT1 42
ZERO-TURN MOWER

- 22 HP^{††} Kohler® KT 7000 Series V-Twin OHV engine
- 42" stamped mowing deck
- Dual Hydro-Gear® EZT-2200™ transmission
- 2" x 2" tubular steel frame for enhanced durability

STARTING AT:
\$2,699*

FOR FULL PRODUCT SPECS **Cub Cadet** VISIT CUBCADET.COM

LOUDERMILK TRACTOR & CYCLE RT45

ASHTABULA, OHIO 44004

www.loudermilks.net

440-969-1211

Family Owned & Operated Since 1965

*Product Price - Actual retail prices are set by dealer and may vary. Taxes, freight, setup and handling charges may be additional and may vary. Models subject to limited availability. Specifications and programs are subject to change without notice. Images may not reflect dealer inventory and/or unit specifications. †† As rated by Kohler, all power levels are stated in gross horsepower at 3600 RPM per SAE J1340 as rated by engine manufacturer. †† As required by Kawasaki, horsepower tested in accordance with SAE J1195 and rated in accordance with SAE J2723 and certified by SAE International. **See your local Cub Cadet Independent Dealer for warranty details. © 2021 Cub Cadet SPV_Q_ECOMMERCE

Know your options when it comes to fertilizing lawns, gardens

BY BRIAN HAYTCHER

bhaytcher@starbeacon.com

A simple test can help you better understand what type of fertilizer your lawn needs, and how much to apply.

Andrew Holden, Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator with the OSU Extension,

recommended purchasing a soil testing kit, which can be bought from the Extension for \$14, and testing the soil in your yard before applying fertilizer. The kits are also available online and at feed stores, he said.

"Soil testing is the only way you can know exactly what nutrients your soil needs, and what the pH is," Holden said. "If you are applying fertilizer without taking a soil test, you're doing it blindly," he added later.

The test requires taking a sample of dirt

and sending it to a lab, he said. Results usually come back within a few weeks.

The report results are usually fairly straightforward in the recommendations it makes, and anyone who needs help understanding the report can call Holden at the OSU Extension, he said.

Late April to early June is a good time to lay down fertilizer in this area, Holden said. "Right around that time when you're doing your first mowing," he said.

Another major step is to make sure that

you apply the correct amount of fertilizer to the yard. Over-fertilizing is a danger, Holden said.

The soil report will give a recommended number of pounds per 1,000 square feet, Holden said. "If you measure out the size of your yard, you can calculate how many pounds you'll need, then just spread that evenly over your yard," he said. "So that takes a little bit of math and a little bit of calculations, but as long as you have that soil test, you know what levels to add and you're

able to add it."

Lawn health goes beyond fertilizer as well.

"Fertilization, with nitrogen and phosphorus, is important, but the soil pH really affects the health of your plants as well," Holden said. "So if your pH is out of balance, your soil might require some lime, and that can be applied in a similar fashion as fertilizer, with your soil test numbers."

Holden also recommended reading the label on any product that they apply to their yard.

ASHTABULA VINYL Systems

Call for Free Estimate

440-576-8944

1-800-759-5164



Five outdoor projects that add value

Exterior renovations can enhance the appearance of a property and make it more enjoyable for homeowners. Certain renovations have the potential to add value to a home, while others may do the opposite. Learning which one have the largest return on investment can help homeowners select features that will have the most positive impact.

Curb appeal goes a long way toward attracting potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors, first impressions of a property have a strong influence on buyers. Landscaping and external features can do much to influence such impressions.

- Lawn care program: Investing in a lawn care program that consists of fertilizer and weed control application and can be transferred over to a subsequent

home owner is an attractive feature. NAR says such a care program can recover \$1,000 in value of the \$330 average cost, or a 303 percent ROI.

- Low-maintenance lifestyle: When choosing materials for projects, those that offer low-maintenance benefits can be preferential. These include low-maintenance patio materials, composite decking, vinyl fencing, and inorganic mulched beds.

- Fire pit: A fire pit can be used for much of the year. In the spring and summer, the firepit is a great place to congregate to roast marshmallows or sip wine and gaze into the fire. In the fall, the fire pit can make for a cozy retreat. A fire pit that has a gas burner is low-maintenance, and the National Association of Landscape Professionals says that most can recoup about \$4,000 of their \$6,000 average price tag.

- Softscaping: Hardscaping refers to structures like outdoor kitchens or decks. Softscaping involves the living elements of the landscape. Hiring a landscape designer to install trees, shrubs, natural edging, and rock elements can do wonders toward improving the look and value of a home.

- Pool or water feature: In certain markets, particularly hot climates, a pool or another water feature is a must-have. However, in other areas where outdoor time is limited, a pool or water feature can actually lower the value of a home. Speaking with a real estate professional can give homeowners an idea of how a pool will fare in a given neighborhood.

Outdoor improvements can improve the marketability of a home, as well as enhance its appearance and function.

See us for
windows, siding, doors,
awnings and patio enclosures.



Jefferson, Ohio 44047
Fully licensed & insured

80 Years in Business!



WSA Inc.

Get a **FREE**
Estimate on the
Complete Job!

Ask About
*Our Triple Pane
Glass Upgrade*



WEATHER SEALCO

**We Pride Ourselves in Safety
During the COVID Pandemic**

Specials on Sunrooms!

*Vinyl insulated  sunrooms
are custom-designed and custom-built on site. See us for details.*

**Reduce Your Energy Costs &
Pay Back Your Investment Quickly**



With Energy-Efficient  Windows

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

See us for:

Retractable & Fixed Awnings
Patio Tops • Entry Doors • Storm Protection
Vinyl Siding • Vinyl Replacement
Windows • 3 & 4 Season Sunrooms
Vinyl Decking & Railing



Cash & Carry or
Professional Installation
By Certified Technicians

4707 State Road, Ashtabula, Ohio 992-9181 • 1-800-992-9181

Visit Us at www.weathersealco.com

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

*"Serving Ashtabula County
for 3 Generations!"*

Cherry Valley Furniture, LLC



**5391 Hayes Rd.
Andover, Ohio 44003
440-293-6736**

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm • Saturday 8am-4pm • CLOSED Sunday

If You Have Furniture on Your Mind, Better Quality is Hard to Find.



BEDROOM SETS



DINING ROOM SETS



TV STANDS



GLIDER ROCKERS



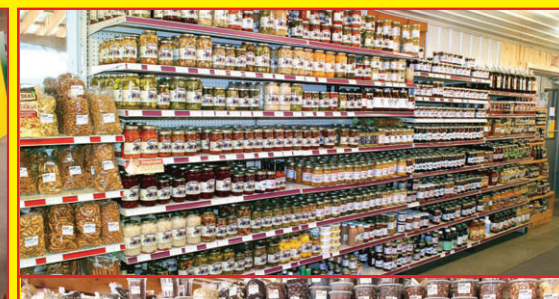
PLAY SETS



LIGHTHOUSE DECOR



CORNHOLE BOARDS



BULK FOODS



CLOCKS



FIREPITS



GIFTS & MORE!

cherryvalleyamishfurniture.com