

HOME & GARDEN



SEVERNA PARK
VOICE

MARCH 2026

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Owner Steve Wheatley (left), Operations Manager Daniel Stefany, and their team can enhance a home's charm or add comfort during a customer's time of need.



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Consider this simple strategy: keep what works and upgrade what shows.

Is Your Home Taken Care Of?



Catching Problems Early Prevents Costly Repairs

Many serious home issues start small, out of sight, buried in home systems, rarely checked.

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2026 Landscaping Trends

Heather Yetzbacher

Landscape
Designer/Planner
KW Landscaping
& Home



As we move into the growing season, landscape design continues its evolution toward thoughtful, personal and artful outdoor spaces. From crisp modern surfaces to plant palettes rooted in local ecology, here are the top landscaping trends defining 2026.

1. White Pavers: Clean, Cool, Contemporary

Gone are the days of traditional gray and tan hardscapes dominating every yard. This year, white pavers are the material to get your hands on. Use them for driveways, walkways, patios and outdoor living spaces. Their bright, reflective surface helps cool outdoor areas while enhancing natural light. Whether paired with dark-edged borders or integrated with lush plantings, white pavers bring a fresh, modern look that feels clean and elegant.

2. Artistic Patio Inlays

Stamped concrete and modern basic slabs are out; custom hardscape inlays are in. Inlays use different materials, colors or patterns embedded into concrete or pavers to create visual interest. Think geometric motifs, mosaic-inspired accents, or subtle borders that define outdoor “rooms.”

This trend turns hardscape areas into works of art, making patios feel bespoke and thoughtfully designed rather than cookie-cutter.

Design Tip: Coordinate inlay shape and tones with the architecture and tones of the house or existing landscape.

3. Cool Color Palettes Over Warm

This is the year of cool tones. While warm reds, oranges and golds have had their moment, homeowners are increasingly drawn to blues, lavenders, silver foliage and soft greens. These hues are calming, sophisticated, and pair beautifully with modern materials like white pavers and metal finishes. Cool colors psychologically evoke serenity, making outdoor spaces feel like true havens.

4. Native Plantings: Beauty With A Bigger Purpose

Sustainable landscapes are no longer optional; they are expected. Native plantings are a cornerstone of this movement, offering beauty and environmental benefit. Locally adapted species require less water and maintenance, support pollinators, and enhance biodiversity.

In Severna Park and the Mid-Atlantic region, popular choices include:

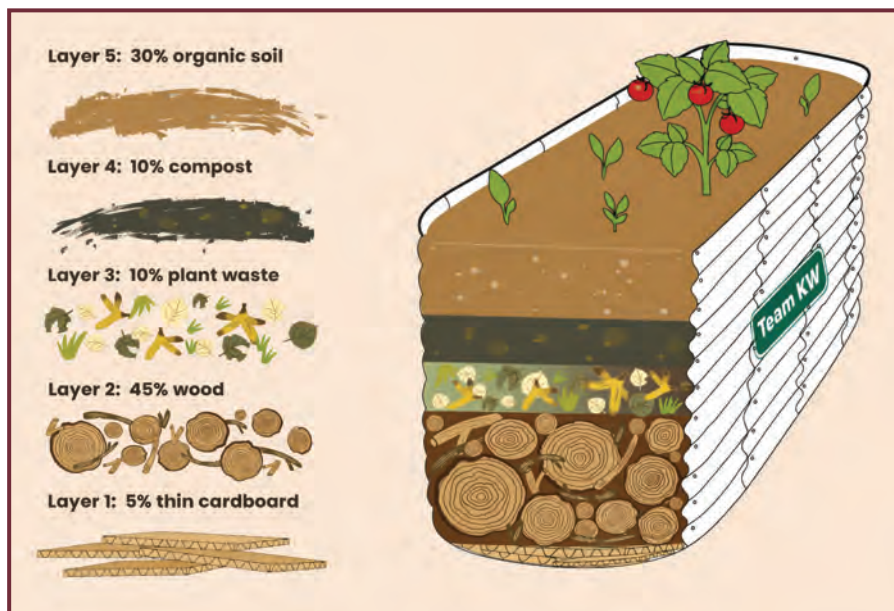
- Eryngium
- White Fringe Tree
- Beauty Berry
- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Cardinal flower

Planting native doesn't mean “wild” or unkempt. Thoughtful design can make native beds feel curated and intentional.

5. Raised Vegetable Gardens

Raised garden beds are trending this spring, and now is the perfect time to start planning if home-grown food is on your list this year.

The Hügelkultur method of installing raised beds is an ancient German technique that layers logs, branches and organic material beneath the



soil, creating a rich, moisture-retaining foundation that breaks down over time and feeds your plants naturally. It improves drainage, supports beneficial soil life, and helps regulate moisture through the growing season.

KW Landscaping & Home utilizes the Hügelkultur method for installing raised beds. To learn about this and other landscaping services, go to www.kwlandscaping.com or call 410-729-0646. ■

Evaluating Siding Options

Why Fiber Cement Stands Out for Long-Term Value



Artie
Hendricks

Rob
Calhan

When updating your home's exterior, choosing the right siding is a decision with lasting impact. It affects curb appeal, influences how well your home stands up to the elements, and can sway your property's overall value. While vinyl and engineered wood remain common choices, an increasing number of homeowners opt for fiber cement — particularly James Hardie products — when durability and lasting return are priorities.

Let's examine the key differences among these options and understand why fiber cement is a strong, practical choice.

The Composition Advantage

Performance starts with material makeup.

Vinyl siding is made from plastic (PVC). It's affordable upfront but tends to warp, crack, or buckle when exposed to fluctuating temperatures. Its color is baked into the material, so it's hard to refresh and is susceptible to fading over time.

Engineered wood combines wood fibers with binders and wax, yielding a sturdy yet wood-like product. It does offer a more realistic wood look than vinyl. However, being wood

based, it's prone to issues if the protective top layer is breached. Moisture, swelling, rot and even pests — like termites — become real concerns.

James Hardie fiber cement consists of cement, sand, water, and cellulose fibers. This blend creates siding that resists moisture far better than wood and stands up to temperature swings that challenge plastics. It's engineered to meet and beat the demands of everyday weather, giving it a reputation for long-term reliability.



**Hardie fiber cement products are noncombustible and/or have a Class A fire rating when tested in accordance with ASTM E84. Fiber cement fire resistance does not extend to applied paints or coatings, which may be damaged or char when exposed to flames. The use of non-combustible siding, combined with other fire mitigation measures, may help harden a home against external fire.*

Resilience Against the Elements

Siding's main job is home protection. Fiber cement performs well for several notable reasons:

Fire Resistance

Fire safety matters. Vinyl, being petroleum-based, can melt or even ignite during a fire. Engineered wood, while treated, is still combustible. James Hardie fiber cement does not burn and will not contribute fuel to a fire.* This immunity to flame offers peace of mind — especially in locations where wildfires are a risk.

Weather and Climate Hardiness

James Hardie siding is purpose-built for specific climates, meaning it's crafted to withstand regional conditions. Vinyl can become brittle in cold weather or warp during heat waves; engineered wood can struggle in persistently wet or humid areas. Fiber cement, on the other hand, is built for resilience across a wide range of environments, reducing worries about climate-related damage.

Pest Resistance

Both traditional and engineered wood can attract termites, ants and woodpeckers — creatures that often cause significant damage, sometimes unnoticed until problems become serious. Fiber cement contains nothing to attract pests and is too tough for birds or insects to penetrate, providing practical protection against the local wildlife.

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LANDMARK ROOFING

Aesthetic Longevity and Maintenance

Curb appeal makes a difference. Vinyl can sometimes look too plastic and may not suit all home styles. While engineered wood has a more authentic look, it often needs frequent upkeep to prevent water damage.

James Hardie fiber cement is designed to mirror the appearance of real wood while sidestepping its weaknesses. The ColorPlus Technology finish, applied during factory production, means the color stays consistent and resists fading, chipping, and peeling — much more so than standard home — applied paint or vinyl's built-in colors.

The benefit? Maintenance is minimal. Instead of spending time and money scraping, repainting, or replacing boards, an occasional rinse with a garden hose usually keeps things looking great.



The Return on Investment

It's important to consider the total cost of siding — not just the upfront bill. Vinyl is typically the least expensive to install but doesn't last as long and often adds less value to your property. Engineered wood is moderately priced but more susceptible to moisture issues and may require more repairs over time.

Fiber cement has higher initial installation costs, given its weight and installation requirements. However, its durability (often 30

to 50 years), coupled with lower upkeep and potential insurance benefits, makes it a cost-effective solution in the long run.

Homes finished with fiber cement siding also tend to see stronger returns on investment at resale. Buyers recognize its value — durability, low upkeep needs, and genuine curb appeal — making your property more attractive whenever you decide to sell.

Make the Smart Choice for Your Home

Choosing the best siding is about balancing your present budget with future goals for your home. While vinyl and engineered wood bring certain strengths, they also introduce compromises around longevity and protection. James Hardie fiber cement is made to

help you avoid those tradeoffs. It offers reliability, real wood looks and long-term performance. For anyone wanting to safeguard their investment and reduce maintenance headaches over time, fiber cement truly stands out as a dependable choice.

Landmark Roofing has served the area for over a decade. Over that period, Severna Park Voice readers have selected Landmark Roofing as the "Best Home Improvement Contractor" eight times. Contact the team for more information on James Hardie product offerings.

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The Importance Of A Healthy Lawn

Jeffery Probst
Owner
Turf & Landscape
Management Inc.



A healthy lawn does more than enhance appearance; it plays an important role in environmental protection, property value, and overall quality of life. However, achieving and maintaining that health requires more than occasional mowing or seasonal attention.

Consistency, proper timing and preventative care are what allow turfgrass to thrive. When fertilization, weed prevention and soil health are managed proactively, rather than reactively, lawns become stronger, denser and more resilient throughout the year.

For many homeowners, following a structured professional lawn care program can help ensure treatments are applied at the right time and adjusted

as conditions change. Preventative applications stop common issues like crabgrass before they take hold, while routine monitoring allows small concerns to be addressed before they spread. This consistency not only improves appearance but also strengthens the lawn's overall function.

The Benefits Of A Well-Maintained Lawn

1. Environmental Protection

Air and Water Quality: Healthy turf acts as a natural air filter, capturing dust and airborne particles while absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Dense grass also slows rainfall and filters water before it reaches storm drains and local waterways.

Soil Erosion Control: Strong root systems anchor soil in place, reducing erosion and minimizing sediment runoff during heavy rain.

Cooling Effect: Lawns can be 30–40 degrees cooler than bare soil

and significantly cooler than concrete or asphalt. This natural cooling effect helps reduce surrounding temperatures and contributes to a more comfortable outdoor environment during warm months.

2. Property Value And Curb Appeal

A thick, green lawn creates a strong first impression and enhances overall curb appeal. Consistent care supports long-term property value while improving the visual appeal of the entire neighborhood.

3. Health and Wellness

Allergen and Weed Reduction: Dense, healthy turf naturally crowds out invasive weeds and can help trap airborne particles, contributing to a cleaner outdoor space.

Recreation and Reduced Stress: Access to green space has been shown to support mental well-being and reduce stress. Lawns also provide soft,

Continued on page 23

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Why Window Replacement Matters More Than Most Homeowners Realize



Elizabeth and John Lippold
Owners
Window Doctor

Windows play a much larger role in a home's performance than many homeowners realize. Beyond aesthetics, properly functioning windows impact energy efficiency, indoor comfort, noise control and even long-term property value.

In Anne Arundel County, homes experience a full range of weather conditions — from humid summers to cold winter drafts. Older or failing windows can allow air infiltration, forcing heating and cooling systems to work harder. Over time, this can contribute to higher utility bills and uneven temperatures throughout the home.

Common signs that windows may need replacement include drafts, fogging between panes, difficulty opening or closing, visible frame deterioration, or increased outside noise. In many cases, these issues develop gradually, making them easy to overlook.

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Continued on page 21

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Backyard Reset

Why Spring Is The Season To Reclaim Your Outdoor Living Space

Nicole Bailey

Marketing
Strategist

Fence & Deck
Connection



After months of snow, wind and seemingly never-melting ice, spring finally gives us permission to step back outside and see our backyards with fresh eyes. The upcoming weeks have always been a season of renewal and there's no better time to reset, refresh and reimagine your outdoor living space.

Spring means more than just the start of our busy season. It's about helping homeowners reclaim their backyards and create spaces where outdoor memories are made.

Why Spring Is The Perfect Time For A Backyard Makeover

Winter can be extremely harsh on our outdoor structures.

Continued on page 18



Backyard Reset

Spring Is the Season to Reclaim Your Outdoor Living Space

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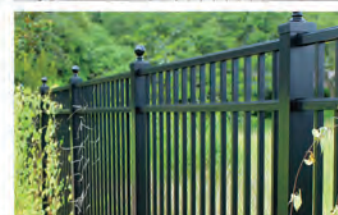
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Is Custom Cabinetry Worth The Investment?



Kristy Wallace
Designer
Severna Park Kitchen and Bath



So, it may be time for a kitchen renovation and you're asking yourself, "How should I invest in

the materials?" Is custom, or semi-custom cabinetry worth the investment? Let's consider three main factors to work through that decision.

AVAILABILITY

If you as a homeowner want to enjoy the kitchen for years to come, it is highly recommended to consider a semi-custom or full-custom cabinet line. If you like specific finishes like walnut or a favorite shade of blue — something you'll enjoy for many years — you will want to consider a semi-custom or custom cabinetry line that will offer that unique quality.

Alternatively, if you see yourself moving in five years, you should consider a stock or semi-custom line that is meant to last but won't break your budget. While stock cabi-

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Annapolis Project



Seasonal Property Maintenance Through Soft Washing



Alex and Deanna Prevezianos
Owners
CheckMark Power Washing

Soft washing is an effective cleaning technique used in seasonal maintenance for homes and properties. Unlike pressure washing, which utilizes high pressure to remove dirt and grime, soft washing relies on a low-pressure water spray combined with specialized cleaning solutions. This method is safe for various surfaces, preventing damage while effectively eliminating contaminants like mold, algae and dirt.

Benefits Of Soft Washing

PROTECTS SURFACES

Soft washing is gentle enough for sensitive surfaces such as roofs, siding and decks. High-pressure washing can strip paint and damage materials, but soft washing keeps your surfaces intact.

LONG-LASTING RESULTS

The cleaning solutions used in soft washing not only remove visible stains but also eliminate the spores of fungi and algae. This reduces the chances of fast regrowth, extending the maintenance interval and keeping your property clean longer.

ECO-FRIENDLY SOLUTIONS

Soft washing typically employs biodegradable cleaning agents that are less harmful to the environment compared to harsh chemicals used in traditional cleaning methods. This makes it a green option for property maintenance.

BEFORE



AFTER

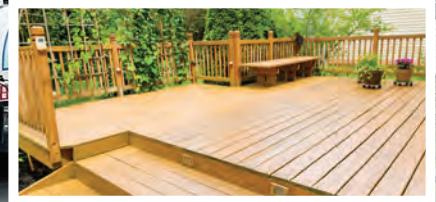
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Seasonal Water Damage? Here's How You Can Avoid It

Nick Whittles
SERVPRO of
Annapolis/
Severna
Park



- Check your sump pump. Ensure your sump pump is functioning properly. If you are unsure about this, call a professional to inspect it for you. If you don't have a sump pump, consider installing one, especially if you live in a flood-prone area.
- Consider adding backflow valves. Large amounts of water entering the sewer system during flood conditions can cause sewer backups. Backflow valves,

With spring just around the corner, there are still some last-minute steps you can take to help mitigate the potential of water damage to your home or business.

- which can be installed on your basement sewer connections, automatically close to prevent sewage and water from entering your home.
- Make sure your gutters and downspouts are clear. Make sure downspouts aren't blocked by any debris and consider adding extensions to channel water farther away from your home's foundation.
- Remove valuables from your basement. If you have items of great monetary or sentimental value in your basement, consider storing them elsewhere
- to avoid possible water damage. Electronics, artwork, important papers, and fabrics can all be ruined by excessive moisture and flooding.
- Become familiar with your water system. Is your home on city water or do you have a well? Do you know where your water shutoff valve is? Are you familiar with your circuit breaker? These are important considerations for any home or business owner.

If water damage is not resolved, be alert for potential mold growth.

Intrusion of water into your home or business can result in mold growth. Water intrusions can result from storm damage, plumbing failures, long-standing leaks, and poor humidity control. When not addressed properly, the resulting damage can present increased risk of harmful mold growth.

If there is an ongoing moisture problem in the building, be alert for:

- The presence of visible mold
- Strong musty odors, which may indicate mold is present
- Any evidence of past moisture problems that might have caused undetected mold growth

Significant mold growth can happen in just 24 to 72 hours and can grow almost anywhere if there is enough moisture. ■

If you suspect you have mold in your home, SERVPRO technicians will thoroughly assess and inspect your property for visible mold signs. If mold is found, SERVPRO works with you through the cleanup, repair, and remediation process with as little disruption as possible. If you're affected by water and mold in any way, call SERVPRO Team Whittles at 410-647-8181 and they will be there to make it "like it never even happened."



Fire



Water



Mold



Storm Disaster



Biohazard

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50 East Remodeling Brings New Life To Old Spaces



By Zach Sparks

With low inventory and high interest rates, the current housing market may not be appealing to some people looking for upgrades. But homeowners are finding other ways to improve their living space: through renovations.

Statewide, active inventory fell 13.2% year over year and new listings dropped by 23.5% according to a January 2026 report by Maryland REALTORS, a nonprofit real estate association. With that shift, 50 East Remodeling is as busy as ever with renovations in Anne Arundel County, in addition to roofing and siding projects.

"There are great neighborhoods here and great schools," said Steve Wheatley, owner of 50 East Remodeling. "If you move, you have to deal with the high interest rates, so people can take out equity and do remodels instead, and we see most of that equity going toward bedrooms and bathrooms."

Renovations can enhance a home's charm, or they can add comfort during a time of need.

"No one wants to buy a roof. It fixes a problem," said Daniel Stefany, operations manager for 50 East Remodeling. "Giving someone one more room allows them to do their laundry on the first floor and now they're living more comfortably. Or it might be, 'My mom is moving in; fix my bathrooms.' So, it's not only aging-in-your-home additions."

For residential jobs, the process starts by determining a budget and the customer's wants or needs.

"We still don't have a sales department," Wheatley said. "We're going over it from planning and estimates to construction. The information is not getting passed around from one person to the next person. It's not a crapshoot where you are getting a random crew that day."

There are no walls between the contractors and the customers. Wheatley said he likes being accessible, he likes living and working in the same community, and he wants people to feel at ease when a crew is working in their living space.

Once the 50 East Remodeling team is working on the house, they try to keep messes contained and they accommodate the needs of homeowners whether they are offsite or living in the house during construction.

"A project is the alphabet, A through Z, if the customer is on-site," Stefany said. "But to help a customer flush their toilet for three days, we have to go A to G and then back to B. We can do that."

However big or small the project is, 50 East Remodeling has an experienced network of professionals to get the job done.

"We have to make sure we have the right tradesmen and detailed craftsmen," Wheatley said. "We want to have the drywall guy do drywall and the electrician do the electrical systems."

One of their goals is not just to do the job well but also to be diligent in educating homeowners. For example, with Anne Arundel County having so much shoreline, contractors must be knowledgeable about "critical area" regulations. A critical area is all land and water within 1,000 feet beyond the landward boundaries of tidal wetlands and Chesapeake Bay tributaries.

"If you build a detached garage in your backyard for your Cadillac, your runoff area is going to change," Wheatley said.

The team is skilled at navigating challenges, from environmental ones to surprises in the home. During a recent job, Wheatley and Stefany had to call the Maryland Department of the Environment because they found diesel fuel in the basement, posing a serious health risk. The 50 East workers had to break up the concrete, dig 3 feet to get below the footings of the house, and use a non-toxic emergency spill formula called Micro-Blaze on the dirt.

"We will let you know if something is dangerous or not done to code, or it can be, 'No, we don't want you to stub your toe on that.' Or we don't want fire hazards," Stefany said.

That education extends to using good materials without price-gouging.

"We're not here to sell any

products," Wheatley said. "We let the homeowner control their budget. If we can get a contractor discount, we will."

"We want them to pick," he added, noting that philosophy goes beyond materials. "If they say, 'Well, I like blue,' we're not going to say, 'Let me give you purple because it is better than blue.'"

The 50 East team has seen a lot of trends, but they also like encouraging homeowners who have their own ideas.

"We have seen a lot of exterior renovating, and homeowners in this area seem to have a similar approach: paint the brick, do some kind of lap siding and shakes in the gable, which is the triangle part of the wall that supports the roof ... There are trends," Wheatley said. "We enjoy helping when someone lives in their home and wants to make it theirs. We enjoy being a crew that can do specialty parts."

That might mean staying away from "agreeable gray" or "boring beige" colors, but ultimately, those decisions are left to the homeowners. Whatever they decide, it should be a decision that makes them happy instead of worrying about what the next owner might want.

"Most people model their house with the next owner in mind," Stefany said. "They paint the walls blue, but they want green."

There are no walls between the contractors and the customers. Wheatley said he likes being accessible, he likes living and working in the same community, and he wants people to feel at ease when a crew is working in their living space.

"On a small scale, we are fixing some problem or making your pride and joy a little bigger, a little fresher," Wheatley said. ■



We enjoy helping when someone lives in their home and wants to make it theirs. We enjoy being a crew that can do specialty parts."

— STEVE WHEATLEY



To learn more about 50 East Remodeling, call 410-500-2266 or visit www.50eastremodeling.com. The company has a 5.0 rating on Google.





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Landscape Trends Shaping Maryland's Yards

Hayley Bush
Marketing Manager
Homestead Gardens



The questions that gardeners across our region are asking have shifted. Homeowners are thinking beyond curb appeal. They want landscapes that function, landscapes that support wildlife and pollinators, landscapes that make sense in our changing world.

Across the country, and increasingly here in Anne Arundel County, four clear design trends are emerging as we move toward a more intentional way of gardening.

resilient perennials such as coneflower and black-eyed Susan, and durable shrubs like oakleaf hydrangea and Virginia sweetspire.

Native plants form the ecological foundation of a resilient landscape. They support insects, birds and soil life in ways non-native plants often cannot. At the same time, thoughtfully selected ornamental plants can absolutely have a place. Many ornamentals provide extended bloom, structure or seasonal color that complement native plantings beautifully. The goal is balance. A layered landscape anchored by regionally adapted plants, with ornamentals woven in intentionally, creates both beauty and function.

Resilience begins with putting the right plant in the right place.

shrubs, perennials and groundcovers are simple practices with profound impact.

Healthy soil stores carbon, improves drainage, and supports the complex web of organisms that keeps plants thriving. Even modest changes such as shrinking lawn areas, adding more plant diversity, and allowing leaves to decompose naturally begin to repair ecological gaps in our suburban landscapes.

3 REWILDING AND NATURAL AESTHETICS

We are seeing a shift away from rigid symmetry and tightly clipped hedges toward landscapes that reflect how nature actually grows.

Rewilding does not mean neglect. It means designing with ecological purpose. Drifts of perennials. Layers of grasses. Bloom sequences that provide nectar and pollen from early spring through fall. Structure for birds. Host plants for caterpillars.

Thoughtfully chosen ornamentals can add long-lasting color and architectural interest within this natural framework.

In a waterfront community like Severna Park, these naturalized plantings also slow runoff and protect the Severn and Magothy rivers and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Beauty and ecological function are not separate goals. They can and should work together.

4 SMALL SPACE INNOVATIONS

Even small properties can become meaningful contributors. Patios, town-home yards, and foundation beds can be designed with intention.

Vertical gardening, compact native and ornamental cultivars, edible landscaping, and layered pollinator containers transform small spaces into productive, beautiful habitats.

The common thread in all four trends is purpose. Our landscapes can either contribute to ecological decline or help reverse it.

At Homestead Gardens, the team believes gardeners are essential partners in rebuilding habitat one yard at a time. Experts guide plant selection, soil improvement and thoughtful design decisions. They carry the plants and supplies to support your plans. This spring, come by and start a conversation. Together, you can create landscapes that are beautiful, resilient and alive. Learn more at www.homesteadgardens.com. ■

1 CLIMATE-RESILIENT PLANTINGS

Our weather patterns are changing. Summers are hotter. Rainfall is heavier and less predictable. Gardeners are responding by choosing plants adapted to our region and capable of handling these extremes.

Climate-resilient landscapes prioritize deep-rooted species that tolerate drought, humidity and occasional flooding. In Maryland, that often includes native grasses like switchgrass,

2 REGENERATIVE LANDSCAPES

Many homeowners ask for “low-maintenance” landscapes. Plants will always require care. But true low maintenance comes from working with natural systems rather than relying on chemical-dependent practices.

Regenerative design focuses on building soil biology, increasing plant diversity, reducing synthetic inputs, and treating the landscape as a living system. Compost, leaf mulch and layered plantings of trees,



How To Achieve Your Dream Kitchen Without Breaking The Bank

Dream Big, Spend Smart

Pegah Scotti
Owner
Kitchen Tune-Up



A kitchen make-

over should feel exciting, not stressful. If you dream of a brighter, more functional space but hesitate because of price, you are not alone. The good news is that many “wow” transformations come from targeted updates rather than a full renovation. The smartest strategy is often simple. Keep what works. Upgrade what shows.

Start where the impact is biggest: Your cabinets.

Cabinetry takes up the most visual space in the kitchen. That is why cabinet-focused updates are one of the most budget-friendly ways to change the feel of the entire room. There

are several options designed to match different budgets and timelines, including wood restoration tune-ups, cabinet painting, cabinet re-dooring, cabinet refacing, and custom cabinetry. Here is how to think about the most popular choices.

Cabinet tune-up and wood reconditioning.

If your cabinet boxes and doors are in decent shape but look tired, a restoration-style tune-up can bring them back with minimal disruption. This is ideal when you like your current layout and door style, and you mainly want “clean, refreshed and cared for” without major changes.

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Backyard Reset *Reclaim Your Outdoor Living Space*

Continued from page 8

Freezing temperatures, snow, and ice often leave decks looking worn and fences needing repair or replacement. Spring offers several mild weeks to assess damage, make improvements, and plan upgrades before summer entertaining and excessive temperatures roll in.

More importantly, spring brings opportunity. It's the season when homeowners begin envisioning graduation parties, neighborhood barbecues, and quiet evenings outdoors with loved ones. An expertly crafted deck or a beautifully installed fence

can instantly redefine how a backyard feels.

Creating An Outdoor Living Room

One of the biggest trends in recent decades is the shift from simple materials and structures to outdoor living environments with a variety of design options and upgrades. Today, Marylanders want more than just a platform with railings. They want gathering spaces that serve as an outdoor living room and an extension of their home.

A new deck designed with defined dining areas, built-in seating, lighting, and low-maintenance materials can last for decades. Pairing that deck with a well-crafted fence not only enhances privacy but also provides security for children and pets, giving families peace

of mind while they relax and entertain.

Boosting Curb Appeal And Property Value

Along with increased enjoyment, a backyard reset is an incredibly smart investment. Professionally designed and installed decks and fences consistently rank among the top exterior improvements for return on investment. Clean lines, durable materials, and cohesive design can dramatically elevate a home's curb appeal.

Planning Now Means Enjoying More Later

One of the most important reasons to start your backyard project in spring is timing. Beginning the design and installation process now

means your space will be ready to enjoy throughout the peak summer months.

This spring, homeowners should step outside and take a fresh look at their backyard. Whether it's a new deck for gathering, a fence for privacy, or a complete transformation that turns unused space into your favorite "room" of the house, let spring be the season you reclaim your outdoor living space and start building backyard memories.

Fence & Deck Connection's 35th anniversary is a testament to the trust its community has placed in the company for more than three decades. The team is proud to continue that tradition by delivering high-quality craftsmanship, premium materials, and unparalleled customer service on every project that comes their way. Call 410-757-5511 to learn more. ■



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Grow Gardens Instead Of Grass

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For generations, the iconic green lawn has symbolized pride in homeownership and

community care. Turfgrass plays an important role in our landscapes: it prevents soil erosion, absorbs rainwater, cools the air, and provides space for recreation. In regions like Maryland, healthy lawns can help manage stormwater runoff and reduce heat around homes during humid summers. Grass certainly has its place in our neighborhoods.

However, as environmental awareness grows, many homeowners are rethinking how much lawn they truly need. Expanses of grass require frequent mowing, fertilizing and watering — input that costs time and money. By converting portions of your lawn into garden beds, you can create landscapes that are not

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Seasonal Property Maintenance

Seasonal Maintenance Tasks

SPRING MAINTENANCE

As spring arrives, it's crucial to inspect the exterior of your home. Soft washing can help in the following ways:

Roof Cleaning:

The buildup of moss and algae can harm roofing materials over time. Soft washing removes these growths, prolonging the life of your roof.

Siding Renewal:

Vinyl, aluminum, Hardie or wood siding collects dirt and organic growth, leading to discolored and unappealing exteriors.

A thorough soft wash revitalizes your home's appearance.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE

In summer, with increased heat and humidity, organisms thrive. Seasonal washing can be beneficial.

Deck and Patio Cleaning:

Wood, composite decks and patios are prone to mold and mildew. Soft washing helps maintain beauty while preventing slip hazards during wet seasons.

Driveway and Walkway Care:

Algae and moss can form on driveways and walkways, becoming slippery and dangerous. Soft washing clears these hazards safely.

Seasonal maintenance through soft washing is an essential practice in property care. By proactively addressing issues throughout the year, homeowners can protect their investments, enhance curb appeal, and decrease long-term repair costs. The method is efficient, eco-friendly, and ensures the longevity of your surfaces while keeping your property looking pristine.

FALL MAINTENANCE

As leaves begin to fall, it's vital to prepare for winter:

Gutter Cleaning:

Soft washing can assist in cleaning gutters by removing any mold or mildew that builds up, ensuring water flow and drainage.

Pre-Winter Home Prep:

Clean your home's exterior to remove any harmful spores that survived summer, reducing the chances of damage during the colder months.

WINTER MAINTENANCE

While winter is not the ideal time for washing, maintaining surfaces can be vital.

Preventive Cleaning:

Soft washing can be used on less vulnerable surfaces, helping to avoid staining from melting snow and ice.

Emerging Issues:

Look for signs of ice damming or buildup that require attention before winter conditions lead to bigger issues.

Remember that while soft washing can be a do-it-yourself task, hiring professionals can ensure a thorough and safe cleaning process. Incorporating soft washing into your seasonal maintenance plan will help keep your property in excellent condition, allowing you to enjoy its beauty for years to come.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact locally owned and operated CheckMark Power Washing. Voted Best Cleaning Service in the Voice's Best of Severna Park contest in 2024 and 2025 and an inaugural winner of the Greater Severna Park and Arnold Chamber of Commerce's Winkelmeyer Awards in 2025. Call 443-848-0581 or visit www.checkmarkpowerwash.com.



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Why Window Replacement Matters

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frames, and improved sealing systems. These advancements help regulate indoor temperatures, reduce condensation, and improve overall comfort. Homeowners often notice quieter interiors and more consistent climate control after upgrading.

In addition to energy performance, properly installed windows contribute to structural integrity and long-term durability. Installation quality is just as important as the product itself. Poor installation can lead to air leaks, moisture intrusion, and premature product failure. For that reason, homeowners should ensure they are working with experienced professionals who follow proper measurement and installation standards.

Another factor to consider is warranty protection. Many modern window systems offer lifetime coverage, providing

homeowners with peace of mind and long-term value.

While window replacement is a significant investment, it is also one that can improve daily comfort and protect the overall condition of a home. For homeowners unsure about the condition of their current windows, a professional evaluation can help determine whether repair or replacement is the appropriate next step.

Understanding how windows function — and recognizing early warning signs — allows homeowners to make informed decisions that support both comfort and efficiency for years to come.

Window Doctor is located at 838 Ritchie Highway, Suite 6, in Severna Park. To learn more about the products and services the business offers, go to www.yourwindowdr.com or call 888-333-9313. ■

Custom Cabinetry

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net lines do not offer a wide variety of woods and finishes, they do appeal to a broader market and can offer a neutral aesthetic that is attractive to buyers. You may also need cabinetry quickly; stock lines take about two weeks to arrive, whereas custom cabinetry can take about 10 weeks.

QUALITY

Those who wish to enjoy their cabinetry for more than 10 years should consider custom cabinetry a sound investment. According to the National Association of Realtors, a 2025 estimate showed that homeowners can expect a 60% return on investment for both minor and major kitchen projects. Custom cabinetry is usually hand-built to order and carries a substantial warranty, while stock cabinetry usually carries a more limited warranty.

SPACE

Custom cabinetry is built to order in 1/16-inch increments. You will want to deal with a designer who takes precise measurements and works with each home's exact layout to maximize space. With custom sizing, you can avoid unnecessary fillers and add utility with storage that fits your unique lifestyle. Alternatively, stock cabinetry can provide more universal solutions to work with a more limited budget.

A kitchen renovation is a high-return investment in both your home and your personal wellness and lifestyle. While it adds tangible value to the home, a beautiful and functional kitchen brings both ease and joy to your day-to-day living.

If you're looking to renovate your kitchen, contact Severna Park Kitchen and Bath, located in the Park Plaza shopping center at 580 Ritchie Highway, Suite C. To learn more call 410-777-9526 or go to www.spkitchenandbath.com. ■

Grow Gardens Instead Of Grass

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only beautiful but also functional and ecologically beneficial.

Gardens provide something lawns cannot: biodiversity. Flowering perennials, native shrubs, herbs, and vegetables attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies, along with beneficial insects and birds. A diverse garden creates habitat and food sources that support local ecosystems. Even replacing a modest strip of grass along a fence line or front walkway with native plants can make a measurable difference.

Growing gardens also improves soil health. Deep-rooted plants loosen compacted soil, increase organic matter, and enhance water infiltration. Vegetable gardens, in particular, transform yards into sources of fresh, nutritious food. Tomatoes, peppers, leafy greens and herbs can thrive in small raised beds or

in-ground plots, reducing grocery costs and increasing food security for families.

Importantly, shifting toward more gardens does not mean eliminating grass entirely. Lawns remain valuable for play areas, pets, gatherings and visual openness. The goal is balance. Knowledgeable professionals can help you create a thoughtfully designed landscape to include a functional lawn space surrounded by layered garden beds, native plant borders, and edible plantings. This approach maintains the practical benefits of turf while maximizing ecological impact.

From a financial perspective, well-designed gardens can enhance curb appeal and property value. Colorful plantings create visual interest throughout the seasons, while edible landscapes offer both aesthetic and practical returns. Over time, reducing lawn area can lower maintenance expenses, particularly when replacing high-maintenance turf with drought-tolerant plants.

Ultimately, the conversation is not

“grass versus gardens.” It is about intentional landscaping. By asking how much lawn we truly use — and where gardens could serve us better — we can create outdoor spaces that are more sustainable, resilient and rewarding. Expanding garden spaces supports pollinators, strengthens soil, produces food, and reduces resource consumption, all while preserving the areas of lawn that still serve an important purpose.

As communities look toward greener futures, growing more gardens alongside thoughtfully maintained grass offers a practical and beautiful path forward.

Trusting Evergreen Gene's to handle these tasks ensures that your landscape receives the care and attention it deserves, leaving you with a beautiful and thriving property to sit back and enjoy. Contact the team at www.evergreengenes.com or call 410-766-6877 to schedule a free estimate. Evergreen Gene's is located at 401 Crain Highway South in Glen Burnie. ■

How To Achieve Your Dream Kitchen

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Cabinet painting.

Painting can deliver a dramatic change, especially when paired with new hardware. It is a strong fit when the cabinet structure is sound and you want a new color story without changing door profiles.

Cabinet re-dooring.

Cabinet re-dooring replaces cabinet doors and drawer fronts while keeping the existing cabinet boxes. It is a smart middle ground when your boxes are solid but your doors look dated, damaged, or simply are not your style. Compared with refacing, re-dooring usually keeps more of the existing surfaces as is, which can reduce cost and time.

Cabinet refacing and resurfacing.

Refacing goes a step further than re-dooring by adding a matching veneer to the visible cabinet box surfaces so everything looks new and cohesive. If you want a more comprehensive transformation without replacing the entire cabinet layout, refacing is often the “best of both worlds” option.

Drivers of cabinet resurface costs.

When homeowners search “cabinet resurface cost,” they usually want two things: a realistic range and a clear explanation of what changes that number.

Cost guides commonly estimate refacing by linear foot, since more cabinet length typically means more materials and labor. Fixr, for example, reports an average around the mid-hundreds per linear foot

- Keep the existing cabinet boxes if they are structurally sound.
- Choose re-dooring when you want a new look but do not need veneered box surfaces.
- Upgrade hardware and hinges strategically. Small changes can read as “high-end.”

Painting is typically the lowest-cost transformation. Re-dooring and refacing cost more but can deliver a more dramatic “new

with a broad range depending on material and scope. Home improvement television show host Bob Vila also notes that a typical full-size kitchen refacing project can land in the several-thousand-dollar range, with totals heavily influenced by kitchen size and material selection. The home services platform Modernize similarly cites a multi-thousand-dollar range for many projects and highlights that size, complexity and labor rates drive totals.

To keep costs down without sacrificing impact, consider the following:

kitchen” look while keeping existing cabinet boxes. Refacing is often priced by linear foot and changes based on upgrade choices.

Kitchen remodel financing: Make the budget work for you.

A cabinet-focused refresh is still an investment. Financing can help you move forward sooner and preserve savings for other priorities.

Kitchen Tune-Up outlines financing solutions intended to help homeowners manage project costs through flexible payment options, subject to lender terms and qualification. Learn more at www.kitchentuneup.com/why-us/financing.

To explore all of these cabinet update options and more, go to www.kitchentuneup.com/services. ■

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What You Can't See Is What Matters Most *Deep Cleaning*

John Fendlay

Owner

The Carpet & Air
Duct Man



Keeping your home or workplace truly clean goes far beyond what you can see. Deep carpet cleaning and professional air duct cleaning are designed to create a healthier, fresher, and more comfortable indoor environment. While routine vacuuming and dusting help with surface debris, deep contaminants often remain hidden in carpet fibers and HVAC ductwork.

Professional Carpet Cleaning: Deep, Powerful and Effective

Carpets naturally trap dirt, dust, allergens, bacteria and pet dander. Over time, these particles settle deep into the fibers where household vacuums cannot reach. Foot traffic then pushes contaminants farther down and can even release them back into the air.

Truck-mounted cleaning systems deliver exceptional power and results. These systems heat water to over 200 degrees, allowing professionals to break down grease, grime and bacteria embedded deep within carpet fibers. This high-temperature hot water extraction process — often referred to as steam cleaning —

effectively sanitizes while loosening stubborn soil.

Simultaneously, equipment that uses a high-powered high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) vacuum system extracts dirt, debris and moisture from your carpets. HEPA filtration captures extremely small particles, preventing contaminants from being released back into your home during the cleaning process.

The benefits include:

- Improved indoor air quality by removing trapped allergens
- Extended carpet life by eliminating abrasive grit
- Effective stain and odor removal through high-heat extraction
- Faster drying times thanks to powerful vacuum suction
- No sticky residue, leaving carpets soft and refreshed

This professional process reaches far beyond what rental machines or portable units can achieve.

Air Duct Cleaning: Clearing The Air At Its Source

Your HVAC system circulates air throughout your home multiple times every day. Over months and years, ductwork collects dust, pollen, pet hair, mold spores, and other airborne con-

taminants. Each time the system runs, these particles can be redistributed throughout your living space.

Air duct cleaning services utilize a truck-mounted system paired with a high-powered HEPA vacuum machine. This setup creates strong negative air pressure within the duct system, pulling debris safely out of your home and into a containment system.

Using specialized tools, buildup is agitated and dislodged from inside the ducts while a HEPA filtration system captures even fine particulate matter.

The result is a thorough cleaning that supports:

- Healthier breathing conditions
- Reduced dust accumulation on surfaces
- Improved HVAC airflow and efficiency
- Elimination of musty or stale odors

A Healthier Home From The Ground Up

True cleanliness means addressing what lies beneath the surface. Whether you are maintaining your home, preparing to sell, or addressing allergy concerns, professional carpet and air duct cleaning is an investment in comfort, cleanliness and long-term property care.

With truck-mounted equipment, 200-plus-degree hot water extraction, and high-powered HEPA vacuum technology, The Carpet and Air Duct Man delivers professional-grade results that portable systems simply cannot match. Learn more at www.thecarpetandair-ductman.com.

Clean carpets. Cleaner air. A noticeably healthier space. ■



The Importance Of A Healthy Lawn

Continued from page 6

safe areas for recreation, exercise and family activities.

Noise Reduction: Thick turfgrass can reduce noise levels by 30% to 40% while creating a quieter, more peaceful outdoor setting.

With the right timing, balanced nutrition, and consistent monitoring, a lawn becomes more than landscaping; it becomes a sustainable, high-function-

ing part of your home that protects the environment, supports property value, and provides a healthier, more enjoyable outdoor space year after year.

Turf & Landscape Management Inc. is located in Severna Park. To learn more about the lawn and landscaping services the business provides, call 410-255-7402 or go to www.turfandlandscapemanagement.com. ■



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Here's Johnny!

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