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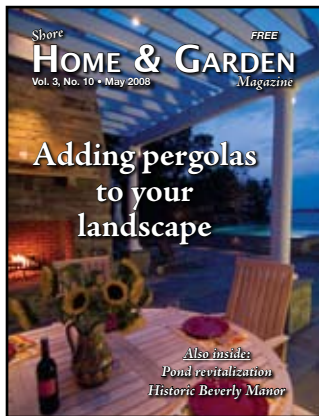


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Things are looking up

This time of year is a home gardener's dream. The air is new and fresh and the soil is warm enough to work with. Whether your passion is flowers or vegetables – or both, it's time to get outside, dust off your gardening tools and prepare your bounty of color and future salads!

Cover photo courtesy Walnut Hill Landscape Company

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A longtime family tradition

Lowé's Bayshore Nursery and Garden Center has been a Kent Island fixture.
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Be prepared there's a lot more to it than digging a hole and filling it with water.
by Sean Clougherty, Page 22

Shady connections

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Is there something you'd like to share?

Call 410-822-4025 or e-mail
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Don't cry wolf: Stay summer-safety smart

Reckless or senseless use of the 9-1-1 emergency system is like Peter crying wolf — a costly and dire mistake.

In this the season of thunder storms, tornado-watch blocks, flood warnings and the possible blistering heat waves to come, there are many at-home precautions that can be taken.

This includes taking a look at not only what's in your wallet but in your medicine chest.

With the technology available today for weather forecasting we as the public have less of an excuse to not be at least at minimums with our preparedness.

In any weather-related situation

By Bev Leitch
Columnist

*Shore Home
& Garden
Magazine*



that gives reason for concern there are steps to take that can ease your stress — and possibly save your life.

Stay alert and informed by whatever communication means is available to you. This may be TV, computer, newspaper or local radio stations and sometimes word-of-mouth from a caring friend or neighbor. Once aware of an oncoming event, take a few minutes and a few

simple steps to prepare.

Have working flashlights and extra batteries on hand. Draw several containers of water, some for drinking cooking and other necessities, in case of a long-term power outage.

If being on the road for absolute necessity is unavoidable, be aware of flood areas and reroute if possible.

Even in an automobile have water, flashlights, blankets roadside flares and a communication source. Check routine maintenance before heading out. This includes things like oil, wiper blades and windshield cleaning fluid.

Know where the spare tire and jack are and how to use them, or have a local assistance (PAGE 61)

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Checking out friends, old and new

May is usually warm enough to think seriously about planting annual flowers that will provide your garden with beautiful colors all summer long.

I love to go to garden centers and check out my old friends: Annual flowers that I have been planting since I was a child.

I cannot resist looking at some potential new friends, the annuals that the plant breeders have been perfecting until they decide the plants are just about perfect for my garden.

Which plants to choose? First, I make a list of the garden areas I want to have full of color all summer long



By Ginny Rosenkranz
*Extension Educator
Commercial Horticulture*

and where I will promise myself that I will consistently water during the hot summer months.

Shady areas are often a puzzle with most gardeners going with Impatiens, but there are so many more

choices than just Impatiens!

If the areas are in shade with moist soils, I can plan on plants with large bright flowers like Dragon Wing Begonia or Tuberous Begonia.

Both of these plants grow up to two feet tall and fill the shady area with lots of colorful flowers.

Wax Begonias are smaller plants with smaller flowers and will grow in both moist and dry shade once the plants have been established.

Wax Begonias have bright, waxy green or reddish leaves with pure white, pink or bright red flowers.

Other flowering shade-loving annuals include Impatiens and New Guinea Impatiens. (PAGE 20)

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Freshen up for warmer weather

I enjoy seeing how Mother Nature redecorates the outdoors with every change of season.

In the warmer months, she adds brightness by giving more light and color to the outdoors. The daylight hours are longer, the grass and trees have green on them once again, and a range of colors reappear by some miracle in the form of nature.

As the outdoors become brighter, our homes' interiors are calling for a change in seasons as well. It is this time each year when we need to freshen our living spaces and bring the outdoors in by giving our rooms a warm-weather "space lift."

I recall as a child, my mother



By Marianne DeTar
Columnist

Shore Home & Garden Magazine

taking down and removing the heavy winter draperies and bed linens and replacing them with lighter and brighter fabrics at the first sign of spring. She also had slipcovers for some of the upholstered furniture

during the warmer weather months of spring and summer. The slipcovers for the warmer season were made of lighter and brighter fabrics. Not only did these decorative changes bring new and positive energy into our home, but it brought the change of seasons to the indoors. What a great way to freshen your living spaces.

Freshening up a room for the warmer weather is a chain reaction of events.

One small change leads to another, so it is best to consider the room as a whole. For instance, a few vibrant pillows added to a faded sofa will only add to its dullness, so you should have some (PAGE 54)

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