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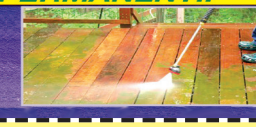
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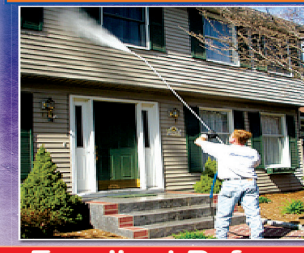
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Keeping Critters Out Of Your Yard

Many homeowners want their backyards to serve as sanctuaries. However, some may be sharing their relaxing backyard domains with uninvited guests. From racoons checking out trash cans to deer munching on prized flowers to squirrels raiding the bird feeders, unwanted wildlife can transform a normally peaceful spot into a frustrating space.

According to data tracked by the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, wildlife damage in the United States accounts for billions of dollars in losses each year. Although a large portion of these losses are agricultural, residential damage should not be overlooked. Deer, rodents, racoons, moles, and skunks are known to wreak havoc on a property.

Keeping animals out of the yard requires an approach that balances efficacy with humane practices. These tips, courtesy of the Humane Society of the United States, can help.

· Modify the habitat. Homeowners should remove the incentive for animals to visit a landscape. This means identifying features that attract wildlife and removing them. Picking up fallen fruit from trees, locking trash bin lids, storing birdseed in airtight containers, and treating the lawn for grubs, can reduce the chances that animals will visit.

· Erect physical barriers. Fences make for great neighbors and also are a viable option for keeping out large intruders. To deter deer, homeowners likely will have to put up a fence that is at least eight feet tall, as deer can easily



jump lower barriers. For burrowing animals, fencing that extends underground and turns outward is essential to prevent digging.

· Use sensory deterrents. Modern repellents use smells or tastes that will keep animals at bay. For example, some repellents will use predator urine to dissuade certain animals from spending time in the yard. Additional deterrents include motion-activated sprinklers or lights that scare animals away.

· Work with neighbors. Critter prevention must be a community effort. If one neighbor is leaving out food for feral cats or feeding deer, then they may be compromising the efforts of homeowners looking to keep wildlife at bay. Making a neighborhood pact to be consistent with pesky animals will help everyone avoid damage and potential animal interactions.

Gardening And Mental Health



Gardening and strong mental health seemingly go hand-in-hand. A study published in 2018 in the journal Clinical Medicine found that exposure to plants and green space, and particularly to gardening, is beneficial to both physical and mental health. Penn State Extension says working with the soil and plants can help relax the mind and have a grounding effect on the gardener, as gardening can help to reduce stress, anxiety and even built-up anger. Gardening also helps a person connect to the current moment and not be caught up in their mind. Nearly all forms of exercise, gardening included, can lighten mood and lower levels of stress and anxiety. Also, routines, such as spending a certain portion of the day weeding or tending to gardening needs, creates a soothing rhythm to ease stress.

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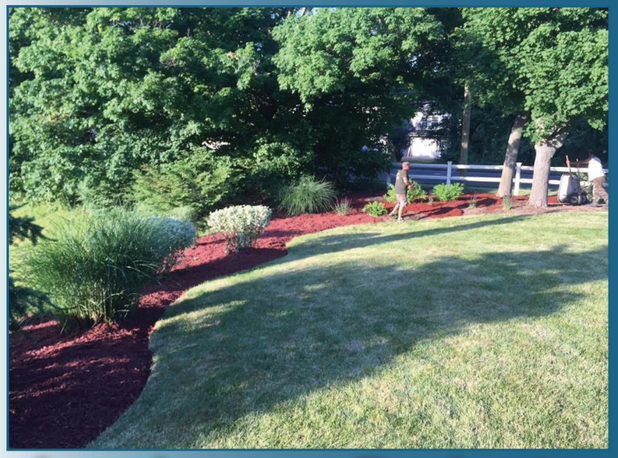
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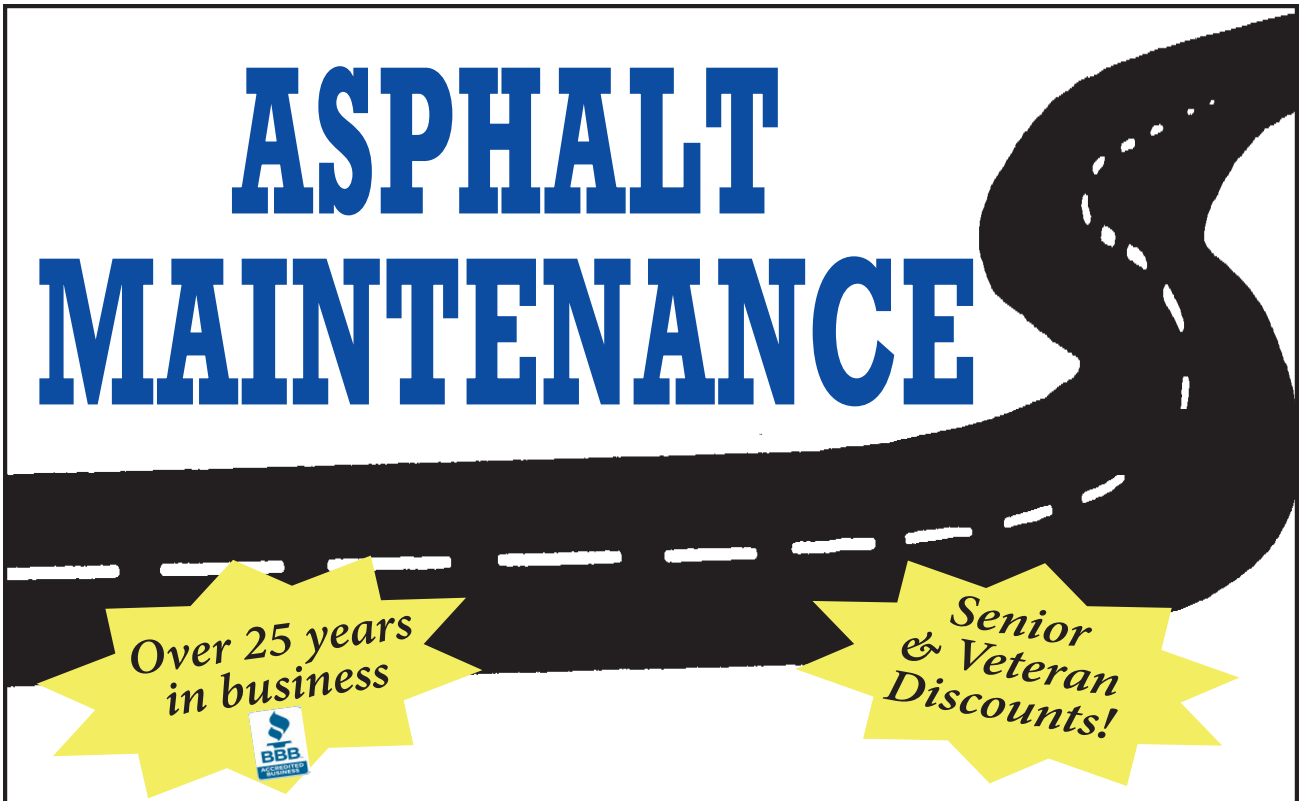




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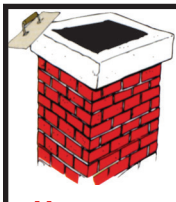
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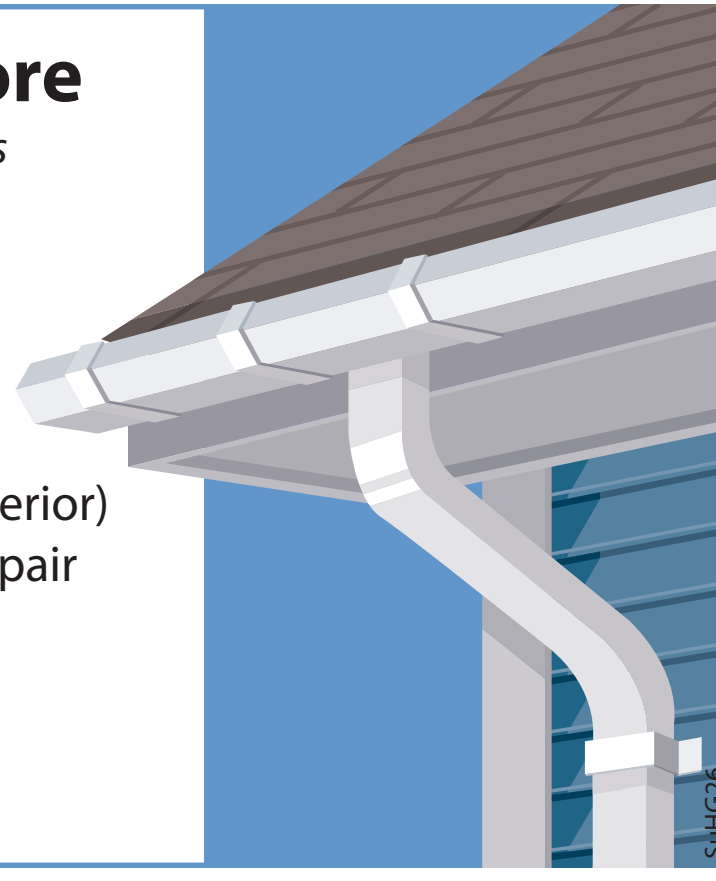
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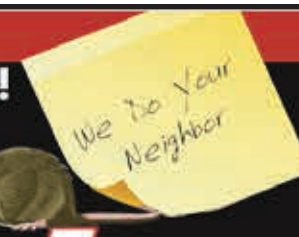
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Key Features For An Outdoor Tv Room



An outdoor living area can provide a welcome space for residents and guests to gather on beautiful days and nights. The appeal of outdoor living is undeniable, and homeowners working with a blank canvas in their backyards, or working with an aging area in need of a complete overhaul, can tailor their spaces to meet their own unique wants.

Many homeowners are building outdoor living spaces around a TV room where they can host movie nights and game watches under the stars. Data from the National Association of Realtors® indicates that such spaces are worth homeowners' investment, as a new patio can recoup as much as 95 percent at resale. When planning an outdoor TV room, homeowners can look to these features to make the space as enjoyable as possible.

· Outdoor TV enclosure: The cost of an outdoor TV enclosure will depend on the size of the television, but it likely won't break the bank regardless of how large a television is. Many enclosures for televisions up to 65 inches can be had for less than $500. Enclosures are important because most are weather-resistant and some are shatterproof. In addition, an enclosure protects the television when no one is home or outside, ensuring windy or stormy afternoons when debris or branches might be flying near the television won't damage the device.

· Sound capability: An outdoor TV room likely won't be used as frequently as indoor spaces, so a sizable investment in a sound system to accommodate outdoor viewing may not be necessary. But you may want to enhance the sound for outdoor movie nights or game watches. If you're mounting the television on an exterior wall, a pair of speakers can flank the TV on each side. If the television is going to be placed on an outdoor TV stand, a soundbar built for outdoor use should suffice.

· Lighting: It's easy to overlook lighting when planning an outdoor TV room. However, once the sun goes down, it may feel odd and a little uncomfortable if the only light is coming from the television itself. Some ambient lighting that's attached to a pergola or built into a pavillion can help illuminate the space where you'll be watching TV.

· Comfortable seating: It's unlikely you would feel comfortable watching a movie or game indoors if you spent the whole time sitting in your dining room chairs. And it's equally important to prioritize comfortable seating in an outdoor TV space rather than just dragging patio dining table chairs or even adirondack chairs over to the TV area when you're about to watch something. Some cushioned outdoor furniture will enhance the viewing experience for everyone.

· Fan: A ceiling fan attached to a pavillion or a wall-mounted fan or two directing air toward the seating area can keep pesky bugs at bay and provide a little cooling relief on warm nights.

Outdoor TV rooms are wildly popular. A few creature comforts can make these spaces even more inviting.

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Our Next Super Savings Coupon Book Will Be Published July 30.

Reservation deadline July 16.

The **Super Savings Coupon Book** will be inserted in the Rare Reminder which is mailed via the U.S. Postal Service to homes in Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Newington, and Cromwell.

In addition, the **Super Savings Coupon Book** will also be inserted in the Middletown edition of The Chronicle on Aug 1.

Total Circulation is over 55,000!

The Coupon Book will appear on our website at www.rarereminder.com.

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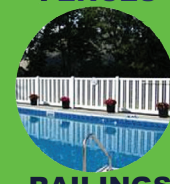
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Our Fall Home Improvement Guide Will Be Published Sept. 24

Reservation deadline Sept. 10

The **Fall Home Improvement Guide** will be inserted in the Rare Reminder which is mailed via the U.S. Postal Service to homes in Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Newington, and Cromwell.

In addition, the **Fall Home Improvement Guide** will also be inserted in the Middletown edition of The Chronicle on Oct. 1

Total Circulation is over 55,000!

The Coupon Book will appear on our website at www.rarereminder.com.

Call your sales representative today!

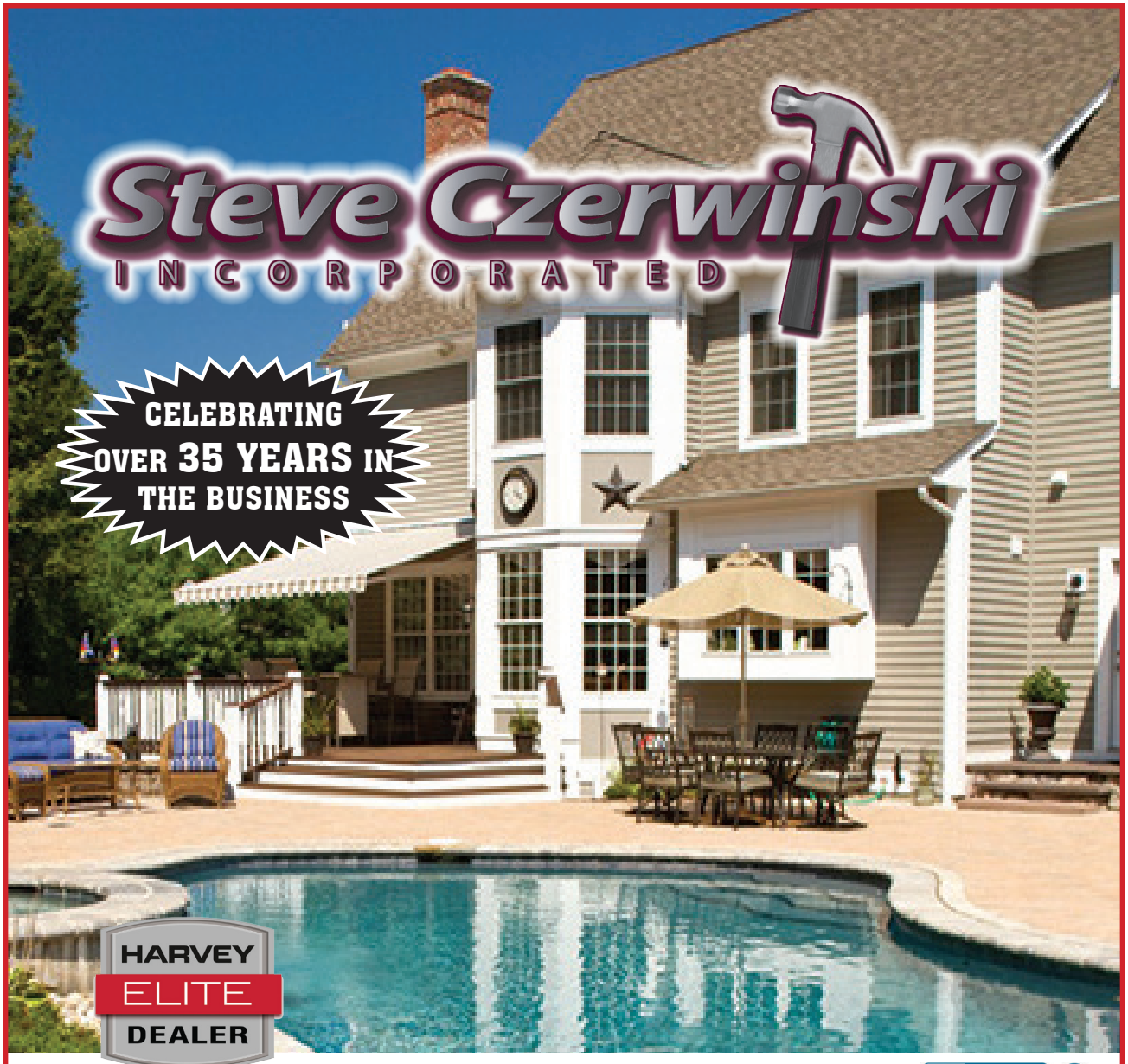
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