

Home Improvement

Bright blossoms



Les and Jan Park, pictured, care for pink flowers blossoming around their Pennville home every year. The display expanded from when their daughter bought them three petunia plants to hang along their porch when they moved in 23 years ago.

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Parks welcome Pennville passers-by with a sea of bubblegum pink petunias

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

One of the first views folks see driving north into Pennville along Indiana 1 is the abundance of pink flowers.

It's been Jan and Les Park's tradition to plant or hang bubblegum petunias and other bright flowers around their home for the last 23 years. "I think it's just a welcom-

ing sight to Pennville personally," Jan said. The Parks have lived at 420 S. Union St. since September 1999. Their daughter bought them three petunia plants that

year to hang along their porch. From there, the hobby grew. Jan, 76, and Les, 77, plant petunias around their home in large numbers each year.

Jan prefers to coordinate with one uniform color — bubblegum pink. "They're a very friendly color," she said. See Blossoms page 4B

Brockman Furniture
Fort Recovery, Ohio



Patio Furniture



Sofas, Chairs, Lazboy Recliners, Dining and Bedroom Furniture, Serta Mattresses



Carpet and Flooring
• Stain Resistant, Fade Resistant Family Tough by Dream Weaver
• Waterproof, Noiseproof, Stain Resistant Audura by Mannington

Brockman Furniture
107 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery • 419-375-2359

HOURS:
M-Th: 9-5
Fri: 9-6
Sat: 9-1
or by appointment

Time for your fall and winter fixer-uppers with True Value



Yard clean-up
Lawn care
Furnace filters
Insulation
And more

Hours: Mon-Fri: 8am - 8pm, Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm
1100 N. Meridian St. * Portland, IN 47371
(260) 726-6263



CLASSIC SNOW

Standard overlay, all-plywood Shaker painted hardwood flat panel door with full extension soft close drawers and doors. This upgraded cabinet is competitively priced to fit most budgets.



CITADEL

SUPPLY
9096 IN-67, Redkey, IN 47373



**Shop our
Design Center
for all your home
improvement
needs!**



Antiques, vintage soar amidst supply chain issues

By **JURA KONCIUS**
The Washington Post

When Samantha Manocchio moved to Washington from California last year, she brought her clothing and not much more. The 23-year-old rented a studio apartment and set out on a search for furnishings, including a table to anchor her small space.

"I am very focused on sustainable living," says Manocchio, who buys mostly secondhand or sustainably sourced clothing. "My generation is conscious about how we as individual consumers can do our parts."

Some change their diet, she says. Others, like her, look for pre-owned furniture instead of cheaply made "fast furniture." She shopped local, buying a 100-year-old English Pembroke table from Georgetown's Pillar & Post, a few miles from her home. The mahogany table on brass casters, which she plans to keep forever, was delivered a few days later in the back of an SUV.

Manocchio is part of a wave of consumers who, in the past two years, have been buying mid-century modern burlwood buffets, 1970s velvet sofas and French farm tables.

The pandemic has created a bit of a perfect storm for the used and antique furniture business.

All this time at home has made people yearn for a fresh look. The spike in home remodeling and all the moving around people have done created new spaces to fill. Frustrated consumers still waiting for a headboard and bedside tables they ordered six months ago are increasingly willing to buy previously owned sofas, just as they are willing to scoop up used Hondas.

Popular online sources for antique, vintage and more recent pre-owned furniture report strong sales. Anything bought secondhand and made in the past 30 years is considered pre-owned; items made between 30 and 100 years ago are vintage; and anything more than 100 years old is an antique, according to Anna Brockway, co-founder and president of Chairish. Chairish's business in 2021 was up 42% compared with 2020. In 2021, Kaiyo had five times the revenue it had in 2019. Searches for vintage or antique couches on Etsy increased by 126% in 2021 compared with 2019.

Reusing old furniture is a natural choice to reduce waste for sustainability-minded consumers. According to Environmental Protection Agency statistics, 12.1 million tons of furniture and furnishings waste was generated in 2018, up from 2.2 million tons in 1960. The EPA also reports that 80.1% of what was discarded ended up in landfills or disposal centers.

"As people increasingly shop with their values, buying vintage furniture enables sustainability-minded shoppers to reduce their carbon footprint, all while supporting small, independent businesses," says Dayna Isom Johnson, Etsy's trend expert.

Younger customers in particular are discovering that old items add character to a room.

"Antiques have been around for a long time and have a proven durability and a classic style," says Daphna Peled, owner of Pillar & Post. She says her millennial and Gen Z customers, such as Manocchio, realize these pieces aren't just a fad. "Buying a piece with history that is also a greener alternative is an added bonus," Peled adds.

Alpay Koralturk, chief executive of Kaiyo, founded the online marketplace for pre-owned furniture in 2014 after he realized how often he was moving, as well as buying and selling furniture. He wanted to make it easier for consumers to get rid of and acquire pre-owned pieces and was intent on making sustainability a core value. Kaiyo works similarly to

an online consignment business. It will pick up approved pieces from sellers and photograph and post them on its website. (Current locations served are the New York metro area, Philadelphia and nearby suburbs and Washington, as well as parts of Virginia and Maryland.) Sellers can get an instant offer from the company or wait to see what their pieces sell for and get a percentage of the amount. Buyers can pick items up at a warehouse or pay a fee to have them delivered. As with vintage clothing, brands matter. The five currently best-selling Kaiyo brands are CB2, West Elm, Herman Miller, Article and Design Within Reach, Koralturk says. "We are also seeing a grandmillennial trend," he says. Heritage brands such as Ethan Allen and Drexel Heritage are having a moment. And floral sofas are back, like it or not.

At the Gallery at 200 Lex, a 33,000-square-foot vintage and antiques emporium at the New York Design Center, gallery director Emily Collins says business has been brisk, especially from designers desperate to furnish clients' empty homes. Collins says the 52 dealers who maintain booths there stock "pieces that are ready to rock and roll," including leather inlaid desks and MCM Vladimir Kagan curved sofas. The dealers also post items on incollect.com, an online antiques and vintage marketplace, and buyers can then arrange through the gallery to have pieces shipped anywhere.

"Everyone wants something right now, something really special," Collins says. "You can walk in and say, 'I want that pair of Italian club chairs. How quickly can you get them to me?' With local shippers, we can get them out in a few days. If they can get a big enough UberXL, we are happy to help them load."

Designers such as Jay Jeffers in San Francisco are scrambling for available furniture. "Two adults are working on one side of the house, and the kids are in school on the other," he says. They need more space and more furniture — and they need it fast. "But everybody is backed up," Jeffers says. "One manufacturer just told us that last month's 16-week lead time for a sectional sofa is now 36 weeks." So Jeffers is sourcing more vintage upholstery that he can have recovered, but even that is taking 14 weeks.

Sofas are big sellers at many vintage shops, including Baltimore's Wishbone Reserve, a go-to location in the hip Hampden neighborhood where shoppers, including decorators and set designers, appreciate the mix of art deco, Victorian and MCM. Filmmaker John Waters sometimes stops by. "Used upholstery, who would have thought," says co-owner Julie Lillienfeld, who says customers tell her they don't want to wait months "to get their upholstered pieces from Crate & Barrel." She adds: "We get stuff in and it sells instantly."

Antiquing once required having a car with a trunk, but social media has made it possible for others to easily join the hunt. Instagram had already expanded the market for those looking remotely for antique and vintage pieces when the pandemic hit and many antique centers and flea markets had to close. The shift brought consumers just a few direct messages away from scoring the teak bar cart or 1980s swivel pouf of their dreams.

Wishbone Reserve recently sold a sofa and two chairs by hot postmodern Italian architect Tobia Scarpa for \$10,000 on Instagram. (Scarpa's work is also owned by Hollywood designer Kelly Wearstler.) The customer paid to have them shipped to Los Angeles. "We had none of this national business before the pandemic," Lillienfeld

says. Other frequently requested items are patio furniture, Dansk enamel cookware and anything bar-related: carts, teak ice buckets, nice glassware. "I think that a lot of people are at home drinking these days," she says.

When stores shuttered in spring 2020, Mari Ann Maher, co-owner and shopkeeper of the Antique and Artisan Gallery in Stamford, Connecticut, quickly pivoted. She posted items twice a day on Instagram and added a virtual showroom feature to the website. "The first thing I thought when we were told by the state that we had to close was that I have to reinvent myself," Maher says, as she worried about how her 22,000-square-foot gallery could survive without shoppers. But to her surprise, sales from social media soon outpaced sales from the website. New Yorkers who fled to Connecticut for more space turned to Maher to furnish their pandemic-era outposts, thus avoiding long delivery times at furniture retailers. Items to furnish home office setups, lighting, upholstery and even textiles, she says, are still flying off the virtual shelves.

There are new players on Instagram, too. Holly Rockbrune and Jenna Parkes, childhood friends who grew up together in Ontario, started selling curated "drops," or collections, of French heirlooms and antiques in 2019 on the platform. The feed for Joliette, which has more than 56,000 followers, is a grid of aspirational vignettes plucked right out of a chic Parisian apartment, featuring bentwood bistro chairs, tableaus of pottery and brass candlesticks on rustic tables. They want customers to envision the items in "snapshots" and to be able to re-create something similar, even if they're not anywhere near a French or Canadian "brocante," or flea market.

Mirrors are always in demand on the site (they range from \$250 to \$2,500), especially gilded, "iconically French" 19th-century Louis Philippe statement ones.

"There's almost a global style now," Parkes says. "It's like the world has opened up in terms of design inspiration."

Garry's Construction

Seamless Gutters 5" and 6"

260-251-9065

hornergarry1517@gmail.com



JACKHOUCK
REAL ESTATE
260-729-2164

1415 W Votaw St.
PORTLAND, IN 47371
jackhouck2012@gmail.com

ERIN DAVIS

Owner

104 S. Harrison St.
Portland, IN 47371

260.726.7272

hometownhardwarestore@yahoo.com

Like us on facebook!



Summer Shred Day

Friday, September 30 • 9am to 12pm



Bring your confidential files
to be shredded on site!
Jay County Residents Only.

All containers will be returned to you. NO metal bindings, junk mail, magazines or newspaper.

Call if you have a large volume of files.

North Parking Lot • Jay County Courthouse • Portland, Indiana
Provided by: Jay County SolidWaste Management District



HOTPOINT WASHER...\$529
HOTPOINT DRYER...\$499
CASH N CARRY SPECIAL

*LOW PRICES!

*IN STOCK!

*FINANCING AVAILABLE

*DELIVERY AVAILABLE

*SERVICE AFTER THE SALE



- *BATTERIES
- *CORDS, CABLES, ADAPTORS
- *POWER SUPPLIES
- *RADIOS, BOOMBOXES
- *SCANNERS
- *LANDLINE PHONES
- *TAPE RECORDERS



HOURS:
MONDAY - FRIDAY...10 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY 9 AM-NOON
Open First Thursday, October 6 until 7 pm

CONSUMER CELLULAR

*PHONES

*PLANS



Stroke

APPLIANCE & ELECTRONICS

1513 N MERIDIAN STREET, PORTLAND

260-726-7136

Blossoms ...

Continued from page 1B
The couple purchased their annual flowers this year from Eicher's Greenhouse in rural Bryant. Jan noted the bubblegum color is popular and sells out quickly, so they usually buy most of their stock prior to Mother's Day.

In the spring, they grabbed 12 large baskets and four flats of four-inch pots. The small pots, Les said, tend to grow more full.

"They're slower to start, but when they finally do take hold, it seems like they just fill in so much better," he said. "Where the big pots, you've got your flower right now, but they're quicker to die off when they're in the ground."

Usually, the couple work together to plant the flowers around their home. But around planting time this year, Jan underwent gallbladder surgery.

"I had to do it all on my own this year," Les said.

"Eh, you're a better planter," Jan responded, laughing.

The couple generally hang their petunias along their porch until the plants begin to outgrow their pots. Flourishing petunias often cascade out of their planters, and heavy storm winds can easily knock them off the Parks' banister.

"The wind beats the heck out of them," Jan said.

Once the flowers are ready, Les and Jan transfer them along the sides and front of their home. They have a soaker hose in their flower beds, making the watering process for those plants simple.

In the right conditions, petunias thrive in northeastern Indiana. They require plenty of sunlight, as well as regular watering — but not too much watering — and fertilizer. Les said he typical-



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bubblegum petunias surround the Parks' house on the southwestern edge of Pennville. The flowers can be seen by pass through traffic as it travels north into town.

ly fertilizes them two or three times throughout the flower season, although so far this year he's only fertilized once. He's learned not to fertilize too often.

"You do too much, you'll burn 'em, and they go downhill," he said.

The Parks decorated their yard with a few other plants, including impatiens — their daughters, Lisa Jobe and Jill Chiaruttini, gave those as a gift for Mother's Day — chrysanthemums and geraniums. They also

keep a few rubber plants in pots next to their front door on the porch.

Les attributes much of the hobby to his wife's love for flowers. But on a walk around the couple's property, he pointed out the different plants and talked about their upkeep and how they were doing this season.

"We run into people that comment on the flowers, say, 'Your flowers really look nice,'" Les said. "That's kind of nice to hear."

Les served in the Army

from 1965 to '67, with the majority of that time spent stationed in Germany. When he returned to his job at Corning Glass in Bluffton, he met Jan. They wed in 1968 at Pennville United Methodist Church.

Jan soon transitioned into education, working as an instructional assistant for 16 years and as a secretary for 22 years at Pennville Elementary School. She retired in March 2017.

Les continued as a machine repairman at

Corning Glass until it closed in the late '80s. He took a job at General Motors in Marion and worked there until his retirement in 2009.

The Parks lived in a trailer on North Street in Pennville for about five years prior to moving out to a property in rural Pennville. Instead of an abundance of flowers, Les and Jan cared for a vegetable garden in the country. Les also owned draft horses.

About 23 year ago, they decided to move back into town to be closer to family.

(Their daughter, Lisa Jobe, and her husband, Brian, returned to the area after having lived in Fort Wayne for several years.)

And they've been outside tending to their pink petunias each spring through fall ever since. It's become their own tradition.

"At least we don't have to fight when we go to the flower shop. We know what we're going for," giggled Jan.

"We're getting pink," Les said with a smile.

APPLIANCE SUPER SALE

<p>Whirlpool 20.5 cu ft Top Mount</p> <p>Black or White WRT311FZDB/W Delivery Included</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$849.99</p>	<p>Whirlpool 18 cu ft Top Mount</p> <p>Black or White WRT318FZDB/W Delivery Included</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$829.99</p>	<p>Whirlpool Gas or Electric Range With Convection and Air Fry</p> <p>Stainless Steel WFG550S0LZ or WFE550S0LZ</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$999.99</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Delivery Included</p>
<p>Maytag Washer OR Electric Dryer</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$619.99</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">Each</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">MVWC465HW or MEDC465HW Delivery Included</p>	<p>Frigidaire 20 Cu Ft Upright Frost Free Freezer</p> <p>FFUF2021AW Delivery Included</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$999.99</p>	<p>Whirlpool 15 Cu Ft Chest Freezer</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$649.99</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">WZC3115DW Delivery Included</p>

Storewide Savings for the Whole House Going On Now!

Gammart

TV, Appliance & Bedding

Hwy. 67 W. 1250 W. Votaw, Portland, IN • 260-726-7809

BRAND SOURCE®
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
Expert





Arnold Lumber Co.



*Serving
Indiana, Ohio,
Southern
Michigan and
Northern
Kentucky*



*We will
build
any size*

**Hours: Monday thru Thursday: 7A.M. to 5 P.M.
Friday: 7 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. • Saturday: 7 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.
Decatur, Indiana**

260-724-3108

1-800-903-4206

sales@arnoldlumberinc.com
check us out on Facebook



FABRAL[®]
METAL WALL AND ROOF SYSTEMS



Vincent Flooring
Professional - Quality

Installation & Repair
Carpet - Vinyl
Tile - Hardwood

Owner: **Tony Vincent**
(765) 730-9966
Insured

Armstrong Authorized

Tech helps aging at home

By WENDEY A. JORDAN
Special To The Washington Post
Terese Klitenic, 65, had two goals when she moved a few years ago to a townhouse in Waverly Woods, a 55-plus community in Marriottsville, Maryland. One was to enjoy all

that the active-adult community offers. The other was to prepare for a life of safety and comfort as the years go by.

Likewise, in Boca Raton, Florida, healthy octogenarians JT and Emily Galea wanted to prepare their one-story house for the best life in their retirement.

Both homes incorporate essentials for safe senior living, including primary bedroom, bath and living spaces on one level; smooth floors (that would accommodate wheelchairs and rollators); good lighting; and kitchens, baths, laundry and storage areas designed for safe, convenient use.

But when it came to incorporating technology for aging in place, the homeowners took very different approaches. Klitenic opted to start small, with a few tech tools. The Galea home is chock full of high-tech enhancements.

Supporting health, safety and security are important components of successfully aging in place. So are home management systems that maintain a comfortable environment, and communication and recreation systems that enable social engagement, stimulation and entertainment.

Wanda Gozdz, president of Golden Age Living, is a residential interior designer and certified aging-in-place specialist (CAPS) whose company provides training and services. She says "aging in place is the ability to remain in your home as your lifestyle changes over time."

As CEO and co-founder of Tech-Enhanced Life, which has a website (techenhancedlife.com) and programs to identify and evaluate tech products for seniors, Richard Caro says he sees aging-in-place technology as a means to help people maintain the daily life they have long enjoyed. And while many tech systems are helpful, Caro notes that some issues can be handled by simple, low-tech devices. He likes jar openers, for example, because they enable people with weak or arthritic hands to continue enjoying their favorite jarred foods.

Klitenic says she wanted tech tools that would allow her to "live alone safely and enjoy movies and music and life in general." Assisted by Zachary Klaiman of D.C.-based Ztech, a company that provides technology and support for seniors, she chose just three things: a Ring smart doorbell, some Roku devices and an Apple watch.

With a camera focused on who's near the front door and a chime that rings when people walk by, the doorbell "makes me feel secure," she says. She already had a smart TV so she augmented two other sets with Roku devices to stream programs and movies. Roku "is inexpensive and easy to use," she says. While she's pleased that the watch can alert her contacts if she falls, she hasn't explored most of its other smart features. As for additional tech products, she will consider them if and when she sees a need.

The Galeas decided a few years ago to transition from their large, two-story home to a smaller, one-story place. They bought a 1,700-square-foot, two-bedroom house in a 55-plus community convenient to where two of their children live. After a three-month remodel, they moved into the house last March.

They made the structure accessible by raising the floor of the sunken living room to the same level as the rest of the space, installing a curb-

'There is a learning curve. ... I grew into it. If people can use a smartphone, they'll catch onto this easier. The biggest hurdle for me was learning the new touch screen, learning the sequence, the dashboard. It took a couple of weeks of trial and error. When I got really stuck I called my husband or one of my children.'

—Emily Galea

less shower, replacing the kitchen cabinet shelves with pullout units and adding handrails to the bathrooms. Strategically located lighting, including LEDs, task lights and under-cabinet strips, brightens work zones and makes passageways safe to navigate.

JT and Emily's son Jeff designed the tech side of the remodel. He is CEO and founder of Boca Tech and Automation, a company that integrates smart technology into homes. Starting with the floor plan and a discussion with his parents about their daily living routines, Jeff developed a comprehensive system that reflects how they use the space, lending safety and convenience to their everyday lives.

The tech is tied into a central Control4 system, says JT, "so we can control the whole house from anywhere, from our iPads, smartphones and touch panels." Included are automated and scheduled lighting, motorized window shades, motion sensor lights, security cameras at the front door and around the house, sensors that detect open windows and doors, motion-activated driveway and garage lighting, automatic operation of the front door, a smart thermostat, music, and WiFi. The system is integrated with third-party devices that JT can use to read his blood pressure and heart rate and transmit the results to his doctor.

The Galeas use a jumbo-size, 120-inch front projection TV to enjoy movies, TV shows and games as well as video calls with family and friends. Equipment can be attached to the base of the screen that allows a sound bar and camera to track to the person in the room who is speaking. Smaller screens in JT's home office, in Emily's quilting studio and in Jeff's business office (for remote access) show live camera shots from security cameras around the property.

The population of Americans 65 and older is a "silver tsunami," Gozdz says. The Census Bureau projects that by 2034 this group will total 77 million, outnumbering the population of children.

JT and Emily were relatively comfortable bringing tech into their home, because JT has work experience in the tech arena and because of Jeff's role as project coordinator. But most homeowners in their age group are not.

"Older older adults" — those over 75, who did not grow up with computers, smartphones and other devices — "are most likely to approach technology with trepidation," says Madj Alwan, executive director of the LeadingAge Center for Aging Services Technologies. Coming behind them are groups with

more tech experience. "In five years, retirees will be much more familiar with tech," Alwan says.

For now, many older homeowners need help through the whole process, from choosing tech systems to setting up and using them. They often get it from young people, especially family members. Klitenic relies on her daughter and son, quipping, "If my kids aren't available, I'm clueless."

Getting used to employing all the tech in the Galea house was an adjustment for Emily. "There is a learning curve," she says, but "I grew into it. If people can use a smartphone, they'll catch onto this easier. The biggest hurdle for me was learning the new touch screen, learning the sequence, the dashboard. It took a couple of weeks of trial and error. When I got really stuck I called my husband or one of my children."

Service providers such as Klaiman offer installation and user assistance, too. "Finding Zach was a godsend," Klitenic says. Klaiman, 28, uses the company tagline, "I taught my Grandma, and I can teach you."

"A big part of helping people is being there while they practice" using the systems and "teaching them how to troubleshoot," Klaiman says. "I walk them through the process slowly and patiently. I understand that this stuff is scary, intimidating and frustrating for a lot of older people. They say, 'I'm stupid,' but I tell them that I get why they're this way. I instill confidence that they can do it."

When they gain trust in their ability to use and troubleshoot the technology, "it's crazy empowering," he adds.

Klaiman backs up the training with written, step-by-step instructions. He remains available to help remotely or in person. Gozdz provides a "cheat sheet" to her clients as well, and encourages them to call with questions. It's not unusual for tech companies to offer service contracts on installed products, says Gozdz. Boca Tech and Automation has one that includes regular preventive maintenance as well as problem-solving.

It's wise to work with experts in aging-in-place technology. Klaiman has IT support certification from Google and is earning certification from Apple. Through her D.C. company Living at Home Consultations, occupational therapist Tori Goldhammer enables people to continue living safely in their homes. She has certifications in home modifications, aging in place and fall prevention, as well as credentials as an assistive technology practitioner.

See Tech page 7B

(260) 726-8234
FAX (260) 726-8234



MARK AKER PLUMBING
RESIDENTIAL CONTRACTOR
Electric Eel Service

MARK AKER, Owner
PC89000232

511 N. COMMERCE ST.
PORTLAND, IN 47371

DON MYERS PLUMBING • HEATING • COOLING

Shop:
260-589-8338



American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

6242 South 000 Road • Berne, IN 46711
PC81056353

FIFER Services 419-852-3112



Free Quotes

- Tree Removal
- Tree Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Storm Damage
- Logging
- Land Lot Cleaning
- Forestry Mulching
- Habitat Improvement

Like us on Facebook

Licensed, Bonded & Insured



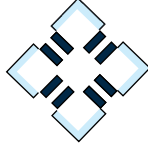
ECOWATER SYSTEMS

OF HARTFORD CITY, LLC
(765) 348-2587

413 W. Water St. • Hartford City, IN 47348

Jacob H. Holsten
Owner

Your Water Perfected.™



HATZELL
DRAFTING & INTERIOR DESIGN

Lisa Hatzell, Owner, Interior Designer
3815 S 700 W • Portland, Indiana 47371

765.730.6777

www.hatzelldraftingandinteriordesign.com/ Email: Lisahatzell@gmail.com



For The Washington Post/Saul Martinez

JT Galea controls the smart lights in the kitchen as his wife Emily pours herself a glass of water. The Galeas decided a few years ago to transition from their large, two-story home to a smaller, one-story place. Included are automated and scheduled lighting, motorized window shades, motion sensor lights, security cameras at the front door and around the house, sensors that detect open windows and doors, motion-activated driveway and garage lighting, automatic operation of the front door, a smart thermostat, music and WiFi.

Tech ...

Continued from page 6B

She recommends tech products that would be useful to homeowners, but also is “mindful of what they can handle.”

As for setting up tech equipment, choose a contractor experienced in smart home installation.

And “caregivers who have experience with technology are essential for the implementation and ongoing success of using tech systems,” says Carly Shilling, community living program manager for the Howard County Office on Aging and Independence.

“Technology is the ultimate aging-in-place asset if you use it correctly,” says Tom Kamber, executive director of Older Adults Technology Services (OATS) from AARP. “It brings safety, convenience, peace of mind — and a fun factor.” Technology helps all homeowners, but especially seniors, by automating “things that are a pain or difficult to do,” says Michael Miller, author of “My Smart Home for Seniors.” Tech advances also allow caregivers outside the house to monitor and provide support remotely. Miller says some tech systems can be hard to use and troubleshoot, though “it’s easier now than four or five years ago.”

Alwan sees significant improvement, too. The voice control processing is more natural now, he says, and touch-screen devices are easier to use. “Tech has gotten radically more intuitive,” Kamber says, adding that most devices now are user-friendly. Kamber warns that homeowners could encounter problems if they buy “lower-cost knockoffs that may come with design or interconnectivity flaws.”

Advances in tech are a two-edged sword, says Alwan. “The smarter it is, the better it knows you and predicts your habits.” That’s helpful. But it also raises concerns about potential privacy and security

risks. The trade-off, Alwan says, is between convenience and security. He doesn’t think homeowners should worry. “You are in control of your privacy,” he says. Turn off the microphone on your smart speaker, for instance, when you don’t plan to use it. “Know the risks and mitigate for them,” says Alwan, then “reap the benefits of smart home technology.”

What are must-have smart home systems and devices for aging in place? Here’s a list of recommendations from Kamber, Miller and Shilling:

- WiFi with a broadband connection.

- A smart speaker device such as Amazon Echo, Google Nest and Apple Home. This should be the hub of the home tech system, says Miller, and should be synced with the other smart products. Shilling says that a smart speaker system with virtual assistant technology can set timers, make lists and even make phone calls via voice command.

- A device such as an iPad or Chromebook that has an interactive screen for system use and management. Kamber says it’s important to be able to visually and manually interact with smart systems.

- Smart plugs and smart light-bulbs programmed with a lighting schedule.

- Smart video doorbells such as Ring and Nest, door lock systems such as August smart locks, and smart burglar and fire alarms. Smart security packages such as those from Vivint and SimpliSafe encompass these security features and more.

- Smart medication aids such as the Reminder Rosie smart clock, Medminder pill dispenser, and Pria or Hero Medication management subscription services.

- Smartphones and smartwatches. Shilling says they provide

access to apps to help with health management, socialization, managing finances, household oversight and emergency response.

- In-home cameras that caregivers can access to check on the homeowner’s well-being and provide support remotely.

Klaiman also recommends an electric tea kettle for safety, as it shuts off automatically when the water has been heated and eliminates the fire hazards of burners. For additional safety in the kitchen, devices such as CookStop use motion sensors that can detect if nobody is tending the cooking and automatically shut off the oven or stovetop. Kamber recommends multicookers such as Instant Pot, which can be used in a variety of ways, including slow cooker and pressure cooker, and features a lid that locks into place until it can be removed safely.

Alwan recommends robotic vacuums and floor washers such as Roomba because they ease housecleaning. To maintain strength and balance, he points to interactive home exercise systems such as Mirror. Kamber likes Peloton treadmill systems for seniors.

“Nothing is foolproof with technology,” Shilling says. “Having a backup plan is a good idea.”

In case of a power outage, the Galeas’ home system switches to battery backup that lasts for about 15 minutes. If the outage were longer than that, a generator would run the system.

To people who are hesitant about technology Emily Galea advises: “Don’t be afraid of it. Don’t say, ‘I can’t.’ Give it a try and it will grow on you.”

“Start out with one thing, then when you’re comfortable, step it up a step or two,” she says. “Eventually you’ll wonder how you lived without it. It really does make a big difference to our comfort, our security and the way we live.”

Even our Adjustable Bed has a Flippable Mattress

Affordable priced everyday!



Made in Muncie for over 70 years

Holder Bedding

1815 N Granville Ave, Muncie
Open M-F 9:00a-5:30p;
Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p

www.holderbedding.net

765-747-8103

CERTIFIED asthma & allergy friendly™ CARPET CLEANING

asthma & allergy friendly™ CARPET CLEANING

2 ROOMS ONLY \$99



FOR A CLEANER & HEALTHIER HOME
1-800-STEEMER | stanleysteemer.com



WE REMOVE AN AVERAGE OF 94% OF COMMON ALLERGENS FROM YOUR CARPET

Minimum charges apply. Not valid in combination with other coupons or offers. Must present promo code at time of service. Valid at participating locations only. Residential only. Cannot be used for water emergency services. asthma & allergy friendly™ Certification applies to Carpet, Tile & Grout and Hardwood Cleaning services only. ASTHMA & ALLERGY FRIENDLY™ and ASTHMA & ALLERGY FRIENDLY LOGO are Certification Marks and Trademarks of ALLERGY STANDARDS LIMITED. The ASTHMA AND ALLERGY FOUNDATION OF AMERICA is a Registered Trademark of AFA. Combined living areas, L-shaped rooms and rooms over 300 sq. ft. are considered 2 areas. Sofas, beds, large wall to wall and area rug are priced separately. Offer does not include protector or deodorizer. Certain restrictions may apply. Call for details.



More than a Company;
part of your Community!
Making people’s lives better

UPGRADING YOUR GAS EQUIPMENT OR CONSIDERING CONVERTING TO NATURAL GAS?

- INCENTIVE \$ FOR REPLACING GAS APPLIANCES
- INCENTIVE \$ FOR CONVERTING TO NATURAL GAS
- FREE SERVICE LINE UP TO 100’

CONTACT OUR PORTLAND OFFICE

CALL 260-726-8114

web: www.ovgc.com

NATURAL GAS IS BEST!!!

September Specials

THREE 4X4 ADS FOR \$205

QUARTER PAGE FULL COLOR \$325
PU B&W \$225 ALL MONTH LONG

Remember, if you run any ad in The CR, you can also run it in the News and Sun for just \$2.50/column inch extra.

Contact Lindsey Cochran
260-726-8141
or L.cochran@thecr.com

YOU DESERVE THE RED CARPET TREATMENT



FREE
Estimates

