

2026 SPRING HOME & GARDEN IMPROVEMENT

Start Planning Now for a Thriving Spring Garden

(Family Features) While winter weather puts outdoor gardening on pause in most parts of the country, the colder months offer a perfect opportunity to begin preparing for a lush garden come springtime.

With a little creativity, and some extra time spent creating a plan, you can set yourself on a path toward success before the growing season even begins.

Assess Your Space and Research Ideas

Evaluate your current garden, taking note of what worked well last season and where improvements can be made. Use this downtime to sketch an updated layout, research companion plants and decide which fruits, vegetables or flowers you want to grow next based on what did (or didn't) work last spring.

Build an Updated Blueprint

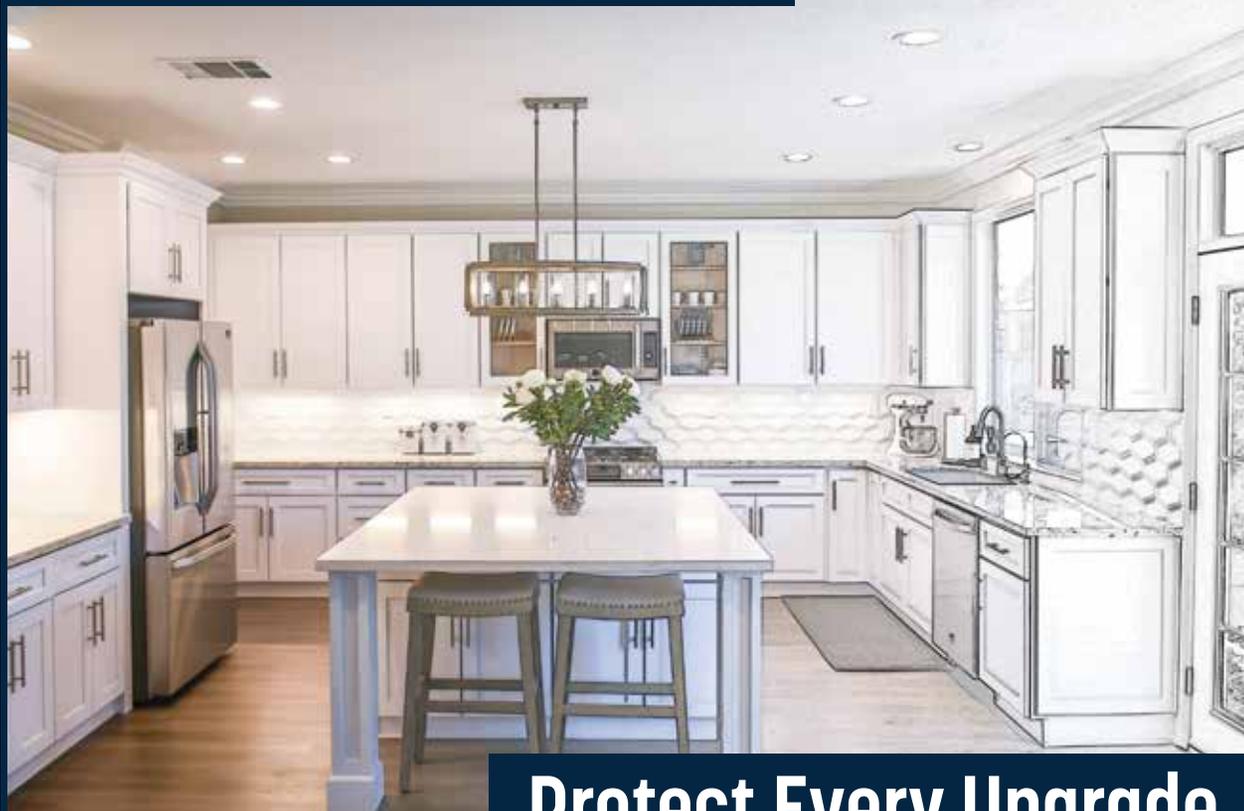
Winter is the ideal time to upgrade your garden design and make tweaks for efficiency. Use the offseason to consider crop rotation patterns for optimal soil health as well as ways to maximize your space such as raised beds, trellises or containers. You can also make a list of materials needed for any new features you may be adding, such as an irrigation system, and map out their placement so you're ready to build as soon as the weather allows.

Nourish the Soil

Even if the ground is frozen, you can



Renovating Your Space?



Protect Every Upgrade

CONTACT US TODAY



MERIDIAN
RISK MANAGEMENT

Personal | Commercial | Life | Benefits

Joe Solimine, Jr.

js@meridianrisk.com

One Wolfs Lane
Pelham, NY 10803
914-738-5678
meridianrisk.com

prepare your garden beds by adding compost, leaves or organic matter in late winter, ensuring nutrients are available when spring arrives. Also remember to test your soil's pH level now, which can help guide your fertilization plan.

Start Seeds Indoors

If you're eager to get your hands dirty, consider starting your seeds indoors. Early seed starting gives plants a head start, allowing you to transplant stronger seedlings outdoors when temperatures warm.

Get Organized

Use the slower pace of winter to clean and sharpen your garden tools, sort through leftover seeds and make a supply checklist so you're ready to dig in when warmer days arrive.

Find more advice to get your garden ready to burst to life in spring at eLivingtoday.com. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

(Family Features) A firepit can serve as a warm and inviting backyard retreat, perfect for roasting marshmallows for s'mores or stargazing while wrapped in cozy blankets. Before you can share time around the firepit with loved ones, however, consider these tips to elevate your outdoor space.

Choosing the Right Design

When it comes to building a DIY firepit, the design you choose can significantly impact the aesthetics and functionality. From classic stone pits to modern metal designs, the options are nearly endless. Think about the size and shape as well. Circular designs are traditional and encourage conversation while square or rectangular pits offer a more contemporary look.

Gathering Materials and Tools

Essential materials include bricks, stones or metal parts for the structure, as well as gravel or sand for the base. Fireproof materials are a must to ensure safety and longevity. You'll also need tools such as a shovel for digging the base, a level to ensure even construction and adhesive or mortar for binding materials together. Depending on your design, you may require a metal fire ring, grill grate or mesh cover.



CONTRACTING
BARRIOS
QUALITY PAINTING



Painting Services • Carpentry Services
Bathroom Renovation • Deck Renovations
Siding Renovations

www.barriosqualitypainting.com
barrioshgo@yahoo.com

2132 Boston Post Rd., Larchmont, NY
(914) 575-1660

[barriosqualitypainting](#)

FREE ESTIMATES

CARPET TRENDS



Family Owned & Operated Flooring Experts Since 1956

5 SMITH STREET, RYE, NY 10580
914-967-5188 info@carpettrends.com

MON.-FRI. 9am to 5pm SAT. 9:30am to 5pm
carpettrends.com [carpet_trends1956](#)

Harrison Paint Supply and Household Hardware

Celebrating 116 Years of Excellence!

GENNEX TECHNOLOGY

When you find the perfect color, **nothing else will do.** Perfection comes from our paint and our proprietary Gennex® colorants, together, creating results that are breathtaking. Rely on Benjamin Moore for premium quality and Gennex Color Technology, which makes our long-lasting colors, all 3,500 of them, one-of-a-kind. **Unmatchable.**



Since 1910



URBANO ALETTI - Founder

In 1910, grandfather Urbano Aletti began a paint business in Harrison, and over 116 years later, the fourth generation Aletti family remains the paint authority in Westchester.

**Take Advantage of Our
Everyday Discounts on Paint**

For Expert Advice, Premium Products
and Every Color You Can Imagine.

**BUY ONE SAMPLE
GET ONE FREE**



Visit today and let us make sure you get the
best paint and advice to get your job done right.

LIMITED TIME ONLY: 4/1/26 - 5/17/26

**59 PURDY STREET
HARRISON, NY 10528**

www.harrisonpaintsupply.com

Mon-Fri 7:30^{am}-5^{pm} • Sat 7:30^{am}-2:30^{pm} • Sunday Closed

914.835.0830

Create a Cozy Outdoor Space with a Backyard Firepit

continued from page 8

Keeping Safety in Mind

Safety should be your top priority when building and using a backyard firepit. Always place your firepit at least 10 feet away from any structures, trees or flammable materials. Make sure the area is clear of dry leaves and other debris that could catch fire. Consider installing a spark screen to prevent embers from escaping and always keep a bucket of water or fire extinguisher nearby.



Enhancing Ambiance with Seating and Lighting

Creating a cozy atmosphere around your firepit involves more than just the fire itself. Comfortable seating is essential for making your outdoor space inviting. Choose weather-resistant chairs, benches or DIY log stools arranged in a circle to foster conversation. Ambient lighting from string lights, lanterns or solar-powered path lights can elevate the mood and extend the usability of your firepit into the evening. Consider adding citronella candles or torches to keep insects at bay while enhancing the ambiance.

Visit eLivingtoday.com to find more ideas to enhance your living spaces. Photo courtesy of Shutterstock



RSG

HOME IMPROVEMENTS, INC.

ROOFING ■ SIDING

GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUTS ■ CARPENTRY

PAINTING ■ COPPER WORK ■ MASONRY

CHIMNEY WORK ■ FRAMING

KITCHEN & BATHROOM RENOVATIONS

DECKS ■ NEW ADDITIONS

*Call now for a free estimate.
Mention this ad for a 10% discount.*

Charlie Leggio, President
(914) 381-3838 Westchester
(203) 767-7096 Connecticut
rsgroof@aol.com

Service Westchester County, Fairfield County and Putnam County.

Love Local? Sell Local!



Shoreline Publishing is hiring Advertising Sales Executives for our long-standing local newspapers and magazine, serving the community in both print and online.

This is a commission-based opportunity with established territories and total flexibility selling print and digital ads. *Work part-time or full-time—you decide how much you want to work and earn!*

If you enjoy building relationships with local businesses and representing trusted media brands, we'd love to hear from you.

Start selling what your community already trusts.

Email your cover letter and resume to es@shorelinepub.com

Spring Sale! Get 15% off carpet purchases made in April and May!



13 ADDISON STREET LARCHMONT

Family Owned and Operated for Over 40 years.
Specializing in custom installations for your home.

(914) 834-7300

 [carpets_onthe_corner](https://www.instagram.com/carpets_onthe_corner)