

NEIGHBORLY CHAT

FOUR SEASONS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

www.fourseasonslouisville.com

May/June 2012 Issue 3

Backyard and patio haven

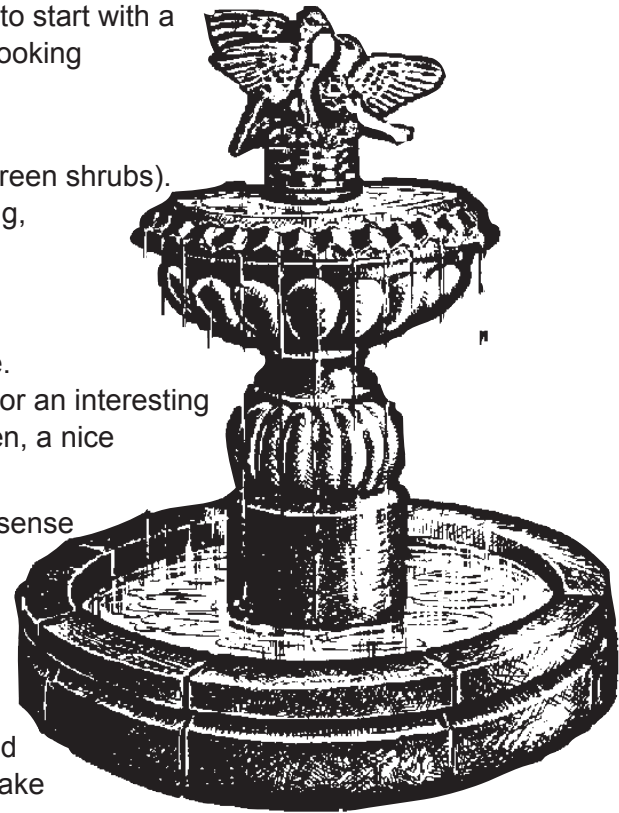
Backyards have become a true extension of the home. When properly landscaped, a backyard will provide additional outdoor living space where you can spend time with family and friends. Backyards have become areas for recreation as well as relaxation. And many amenities that used to be just for the indoors, such as fireplaces and fully equipped kitchens, are finding their way into backyard decorating ideas. With good planning, design and construction, your backyard can become a multipurpose area for relaxing, entertaining and playing. When tackling a backyard landscaping project, it's best to start with a plan in mind, so spend some time gathering landscaping ideas and looking at photos before jumping into your own backyard overhaul.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

- Shrubs can offer color, flowers and winter interest (such as evergreen shrubs).
- The right perennial flowers can offer lots of color throughout spring, summer and fall.
- Trees can provide height, shade, and ornamental features such as flowers, interesting bark or fall color.
- Add a tree near a patio for height, a welcoming feeling and shade.
- While sitting on the patio, make sure you have either a nice view or an interesting focal point to look at, such as an open lawn, a pretty flower garden, a nice bench, fountain, hillside or pond.

A well-designed landscape can be inspiring. It can provide a sense of calm, a sense of awe, and a sense of balance. It can boost your spirits and give you solace. A beautiful landscape can also improve the curb appeal of your home and inspire other people in your neighborhood to turn their own yards into inspiring landscapes. Landscaping and gardening are also ideal outlets for your creativity. Nature gives you an expansive palette of colors, textures, scents, and structural compositions to choose from. In a home garden, you can take these gifts from nature and combine them in any style you desire.

Rather than upgrading to a larger home, many people are looking to expand their living space outdoors. As a result, patios are becoming larger, more luxurious, and more sheltered. Outdoor patios have become hubs of activity geared towards entertaining and relaxing. A well-designed patio will not only add additional living space to your home, but also increase its resale value.



Four Seasons Neighborhood Meeting

Thursday, May 17, 2012

**7 – 8 p.m. Hunsinger Ln. Baptist Church
3400 Summerfield Dr.**

Board and General meetings will meet the third Thursday of the month (except Nov. & Dec.).

Since your patio will provide the foundation for your outdoor living space, it will need to be durable, well-constructed and attractive. There are a variety of patio designs and paving materials to choose from. A landscape designer will be able to help you determine what size, shape and style of patio that best suits you and your family.

Did you know?

• The **FSNA neighborhood yard sale** will be held Saturday, June 2, from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. David Lynch will put an ad in the Courier-Journal, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. *Thanks David!*

• Visit fourseasonslouisville.com to find out the dates of the Neighborhood meetings and so much more.

• **Looking for volunteers!**

Can you help on beautification, block watch, membership welcome packages and other areas of interest? There is also talk about a FSNA picnic in the fall. For more details, please call Les at 495-2457 or email him at leswallen@bellsouth.net.

• **DUES** - Please make sure you have paid your dues. All residents benefit from street lights, funded by your dues only. Street lights are now about \$230 each, per year to operate. We do not get public funding for our street lights. Follow-up letters are being mailed to those residents who have not paid their dues, which adds to our printing and mailing cost. Please make your \$35 check out to FSNA and mail to:

Judy LeClaire
3405 Rainview Circle
Louisville, KY 40220

• **STREET LIGHTS** - We are considering the possibility of installing new street lights. If you would like to serve on the committee or have ideas you would like to bring before the committee, please come to this meeting. A list of possible locations was compiled and prioritized a few years back. We would like this committee to review the list and be certain which lights will be the next ones to be installed.

• LG&E is starting a recycling program for **old refrigerators and freezers. They will pick it up and pay you \$30.** They reclaim the freon, separate the metals, glass, plastic, foam and properly recycle it. Contact LG&E for further details. Up to now you had to have an old refrigerator drained and tagged "free of freon", at your expense, before the trash haulers would pick them up.

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Cucumber Tomato Avocado Salad

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3 small cucumbers | 2 tsp. fresh lemon juice |
| 1 cup diced or cherry tomatoes | 1 T balsamic vinegar |
| 1/4 cup sweet onion | sea salt and fresh ground |
| 1 avocado | black pepper to taste |

Cut cucumbers in half lengthwise, then slice into half-moon slices, (peel some of the skin off). Dice tomatoes and slice onion. Peel and cut up the avocado into small cubes. Combine the cucumber, tomato, onion, and avocado in a bowl and gently toss together. Add a tablespoon of balsamic vinegar and toss again. Season to taste with sea salt and black pepper. Makes 4 sides.