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More lessons learned in 2022

As we just wrapped up the year, one where in the last half alone we moved my daughter and her husband into their new home, fended off mosquitoes, sent houseguests to charm school, and renovated my kitchen, I want to share with you a handful of lessons learned along the way.

Last week, I shared highlights from the first half of 2022. Here are my top takeaways from the last six months:

In JULY, I lurched into the treacherous realm of mother-in-law-dom, after my daughter and her now husband bought a new home. I flew in to “help.” My daughter’s top priority was to replace the shower in their bathroom. I looked at the situation and, though no one asked me, said, “Replacing the shower will likely involve more than just the shower. You might want a bathroom remodel!”

Silence. I continued to bumble forward and just got myself in deeper.

“Mom, I just want a decent shower,” my daughter said. I dropped the subject.

Eventually, they consulted a contractor, then an interior designer. Both gave them the same advice I did, but it was just better in every way coming from them.

Lesson: When your kids are setting up their house, zip your lip. Offer your opinion if asked and know they will very likely come to the right conclusion without you. Meanwhile, you won’t risk being added to the not-welcome list.

In AUGUST, I vanquished mos-



AT HOME WITH
Marni Jameson

quitoes on my patio. No, really. When I first got an email about a new smart mosquito system that connects to your wi-fi and that lets you release mosquito repellent in a defined area from an app on your phone, I thought, “Oh brother! More gadgets to waste your money on that don’t work.”

The system lets off a synthetic version of a substance in chrysanthemums we can’t smell, but small biting insects can and they don’t like it.

Though this sounded far-fetched, I read reviews about the new Thermacell LIV. Then I talked to a few outdoorsmen who verified that the company has been making a portable version of this mosquito repeller for a couple decades, and they wouldn’t think of going hunting or fishing without one clipped to their belts. Duh, obviously, I gave it a try.

Lesson: Although men’s hunting tales rarely apply to better living, this one does. I have spent much more time, often hours a day, on my patio bite free. I’m stunned, but even better, so are the mosquitoes. Just recently I learned that Time magazine listed Thermacell LIV as one of the

Best Inventions of 2022. Indeed.

In SEPTEMBER, I received a publicity pitch to talk to a sort-of design psychic. That was a first. The publicist promised that her client, interior designer Margarita Bravo, could reveal what the aesthetics of someone’s home said about them.

Intrigued, I invited Bravo (who admitted, this wasn’t her idea) to visit my home virtually, so she could give me a “design reading.” Over FaceTime, I tooled her around my house. She rattled off her impressions: I wasn’t afraid of color. I have a curated mix of traditional, rustic and glam. Art is important to me, and my home really says, “This is who I am.” Phew!

Lesson: Bravo’s exercise reminded me: You’re not after a look. You’re after your look. Interior design is not about having a house that looks a certain way but about showcasing the personality of those who live there.

In OCTOBER, I performed a public service just in time for guest season. At the prompting of a dear reader (and all readers are dear), I wrote about the dos and don’ts of being a good houseguest, including abiding by the three-day rule. And, because the success of any host-guest visit depends on many unwritten rules, I wrote a few more down.

Lesson: We all need a little reminder before we wear out our welcomes: Ask to be invited. (Don’t invite yourself.) Mind your things. (Don’t leave them all over.) Mind your business. (Don’t snoop). Pitch in. Chip in. Don’t arrive early and don’t

overstay. Just don’t.

IN NOVEMBER, I explored a question that fascinates me: What makes people move? At the core of most moves whether to a house bigger or smaller, closer or farther from family, in or out of a city, less or more expensive, or in a warmer or colder climate lies the hope that on the other side, life will be better.

Otherwise, why would anyone dismantle their home, put all their worldly possessions in boxes and trucks, and yank themselves like rootbound molars out of their communities?

So I was intrigued by a study that found that more than one in four (26%) Americans moved to a

SEE MARNI, 3H



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FROM PAGE 2H

new state in the last five years. Among those who didn't leave their state, 63% thought about it. Of those who did move, 88% were happy they did.

Lesson: You get one life. Spend it where you want to be.

In DECEMBER, after much mulling, my daydream of a new kitchen materialized. Thank you for coming along as I navigated the worlds of picking counters, appliances, faucets, hardware, sinks, and more.

To avoid the two worries we all have when we renovate that it will cost a lot more and take a lot longer I followed my own advice. Before starting, I had all the ma-

terials not just ordered but on site. I had the workers lined up along with their quotes, and, once rolling, I didn't change my mind.

Lesson: The formula works: Dream. Plan. Execute. After years of dreaming, weeks of planning and a few days of inconvenience, I got the kitchen I wanted.

Wishing you a feather-down, clutter-free, on-budget, wish-filled 2023.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want," "Downsizing the Family Home - What to Save, What to Let Go" and "Downsizing the Blended Home - When Two Households Become One." She can be contacted at www.marni-jameson.com.



Small moves, big difference A few cosmetic changes, including a new sink and faucet, new counters and updated cabinet hardware, made this 20-year-old kitchen look and feel like new. Photo courtesy of Marni Jameson

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Installing uplighting beneath kitchen cabinets is an inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look.

Quick and easy ways to give your kitchen a new look

There are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

Kitchens are often described as the busiest rooms in a home. Kitchens are where meals are prepared and tend to be go-to gathering spots on holiday get-togethers and during other events when homeowners host family and friends.

With so much time spent in the kitchen, it's easy to see how homeowners might grow a little bored by these rooms. The cost of a kitchen remodel won't be cheap, as the home improvement resource Angi.com notes that the typical cost of such a project in the United States is between \$13,000 and \$38,000. Angi.com estimates even indicate that a high-end remodel could cost homeowners as much as \$61,000. That's beyond many home-

owners' budgets. But the good news is that there are many quick and easy, not to mention less expensive, ways to give a kitchen a new look.

- Repaint and restyle the cabinets. Cabinet space is an undeniably precious commodity in a kitchen, especially as more and more homeowners embrace their inner chef and cook more complicated meals at home. After all, the more expansive a home chef's culinary repertoire, the more space that person needs to store all the tools of the cooking trade. A full cabinet replacement is unnecessary if the cabinets are still functional and not overcrowded, so repainting them can be a great way to give the kitchen a new

look while keeping costs reasonable. During the painting project, homeowners can install new cabinet knobs and/or drawer pulls to freshen up the style of the cabinets even further.

- Install under-cabinet lighting. Another inexpensive way to give a kitchen a new look is to install under-cabinet lighting. Under-cabinet lighting serves both an aesthetic and practical purpose. From a purely aesthetic standpoint, under-cabinet lighting can make a kitchen feel more warm and keep the kitchen illuminated when meals aren't being prepared and homeowners don't want to have their overhead lights on but still want to be able to navi-

gate the kitchen safely. During meal prep, under-cabinet lighting can illuminate counters so it's easier to chop, peel and perform other prep tasks.

- Replace existing backsplash. Replacing backsplash is another simple, inexpensive and effective way to give a kitchen a new feel. Homeowners can opt for something neutral that won't upset their existing decor or go with a more bold backsplash that immediately draws the attention of anyone who enters the room. This simple job can be done by the average do-it-yourselfer and the cost of new backsplash won't break the bank.

- Replace existing seating. Whether you have an island countertop with bar stools or

a breakfast nook with cushioned seats, replacing the seating is a budget-friendly job that can create a new look when entering the room. Countertop bar stools come in many styles, so giving this area of the kitchen a new feel can be as simple as shifting from classic, high-back stools to more modern swivel stools with a chrome base. For the breakfast nook, replacing a light-colored bench cushion with a bolder alternative can instantly transform the look of the space.

Kitchen remodels can break the bank. But there's a host of budget-friendly ways for cost-conscious homeowners to revitalize these popular spaces in their homes.

Types of bird feed for backyard feeders

Birding is a wildly popular hobby. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, about 45 million Americans are birders, while data from the popular bird observation app eBird indicates that submissions from Canadian birders increased by 34 percent in 2020.

It's not uncommon for birding enthusiasts to travel great distances to see beautiful birds in serene settings. But individuals also can entice beautiful birds to come to them. Bird feeders beckon birds to millions of backyards every day, making them an ideal addition to properties owned by people with an affinity for avians. After choosing a bird feeder, novices may not know which food to fill it with. This breakdown, courtesy of the National Wildlife Federation, can help anyone find the right food for their feeders.

• **Nectar:** Individuals who want to attract hummingbirds can do so with nectar, which the NWF describes as colored sugar water. Nectar must be placed into a hummingbird feeder and also might attract orioles to the backyard.

• **Black-oil sunflower:** The NWF notes that black-oil sunflower is the most popular bird seed. Black-oil sunflower attracts an array of birds, including blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, and sparrows. Novices may like that black-oil sunflower seed can even be found at many grocery stores, which can appeal to individuals who live in remote lo-

cations without specialty bird stores nearby.

• **Mixes:** Seed mixes also can be found at grocery stores and appeal to a variety of birds. Individuals who want to keep their feeders close to their decks or patios may want to look for mixes described as "no-mess." The NWF indicates that these mixes have been de-hulled, which means there won't be as big a pile of unwanted seeds be-

neath the feeder. That tends to be the case with regular mixes that birds pick through as they choose which seeds they want and discard the others, often dropping them to the ground beneath the feeder. The NWF reports that mixes tend to attract ground-feeding birds, such as doves and sparrows.

• **Suet:** Suet is sought after in winter by bird lovers who want to help birds stay healthy and

strong during times of year when food sources are scarce. Suet requires a suet feeder, which is unlike most bird feeders. Suet comes in squares and isn't in seed form, though seeds are typically mixed in to the gelatinous cake. Despite its appearance, which can seem like a square block of fat, suet is an excellent source of protein for birds in winter.

• **Thistle or nyjer:** The NWF

notes that goldfinches love this small, high-quality seed. Because thistle or nyjer is something of a specialty seed, birders who want to put it out will need to purchase a finch feeder.

Birding has millions of devotees across the globe. Knowing what to feed birds can be a great way for birding enthusiasts to attract these beautiful creatures to their own backyards

Live & Online Real Estate Auction
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 Fantastic multi-use facility.
 Live auction begins Jan. 10 @ 6 p.m.



The conclusion of this reserve auction will be a live auction on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, starting at 6 pm. The property is being sold as is and all due diligence inspections must be completed before the auction. Seller reserves the right to accept an offer up to 72 hours before the auction date at which the auction will be canceled. The buyer is responsible for 10% buyer's premium that is due after the auction. David Saul will conduct the auction. Any offers have to be voted on by local and national Elk members. Sold as is.

Legal Description says 15AC but may be more/less. Buyer is to obtain their own survey to confirm the actual land size. SQFT was obtained from the previous appraisal. SF may be more/less. The alarm is active. Must have an appointment.

<p>Kim Wade 304.552.1599 REALTOR® Salesperson</p> 	<p>Scott Jones 304.415.4275 REALTOR® Salesperson</p> 
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	<p>Stephanie Young 304.419.0711 REALTOR® Salesperson</p> 
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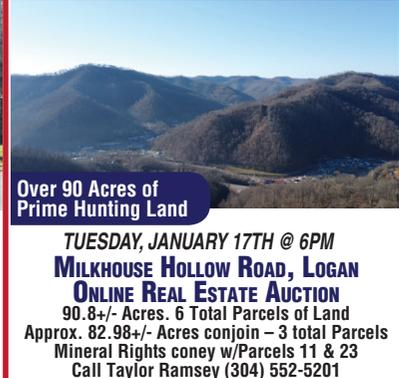
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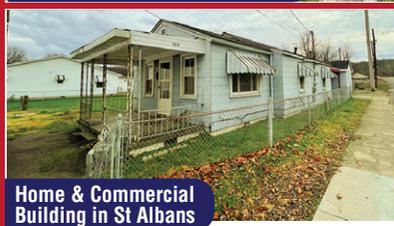
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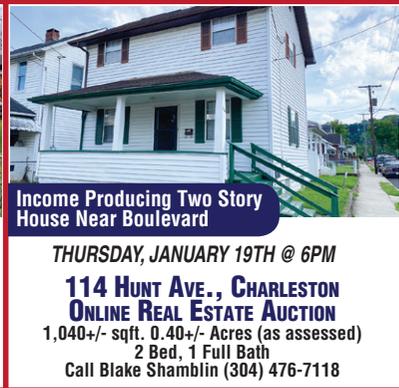


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THURSDAY, JANUARY 19TH @ 4PM
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 - *Thu. January 5th – Nitro – 3 Bedroom Nitro Home
 - *Wed. January 11th – Charleston – Large Brick Duplex in Charleston
 - *Thu. January 12th – Charleston – 2 Bedroom in Charleston Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Sat. January 14th – Barboursville - BRAND NEW 3 Bedroom Manufactured Home
 - *Tue. January 17th – Hurricane – 5 Bedroom Home in the Heart of Hurricane
 - *Wed. January 18th – Saint Albans – Home & Commercial Building in St. Albans
 - *Wed. January 18th – Saint Albans – 3 Bedroom St. Albans
 - *Thu. January 19th – Glasgow – Nice 2-Bedroom in Glasgow
 - *Tue. January 24th – South Charleston – Move-in Ready 3 Bedroom in South Charleston
 - *Tue. January 24th – Parkersburg – Versatile 2,200+/- sqft. Parkersburg Building
 - *Wed. January 25th – Charleston – Clean 3 Bedroom Home Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Thu. February 16th – Mount Nebo – Beautiful 3 Bedroom on 1-Acre on Summersville Lake
 - *Mon. January 9th – Hansford – Nearly Half-Acre Lot Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Mon. January 9th – Saint Albans – Large Collection of Comics, NASCAR Items, Toy Cars, Star Trek Items
 - *Tue. January 10th – Huntington – Turn-Key Brick Commercial Building in Huntington
 - *Tue. January 10th – Griffithsville – Portable Classrooms, Storage Buildings, Chain-link Fence, School Items, House Materials
 - *Thu. January 12th – MacArthur – Beautiful 3 Bedroom o 5+/- Acres with Flexible Zoning
 - *Mon. January 16th – Charleston – 2 Properties Selling to the Highest Bidders
 - *Tue. January 17th – Logan – Over 90 Acres of Prime Hunting Land
 - *Tue. January 17th – Saint Albans – 1957 Chevrolet Bel-Air Continental Kit
 - *Wed. January 18th – Hurricane – Spacious 2 Bedroom Hurricane Home Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Thu. January 19th – Glenwood – Multi-Use Property on 1+ Acre Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Thu. January 19th – Charleston – Income Producing Two Story House Near Boulevard
 - *Tue. January 24th – Charleston – 4 Bedroom Charleston Home
 - *Wed. January 25th – Handley – 2 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Thu. January 26th – Saint Albans – 2 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder
 - *Tue. January 31st – Davis – 3 Story, 5 Bedroom Selling to the Highest Bidder



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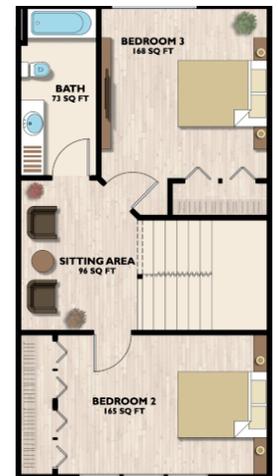
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