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Ten Bears LC & CFE Lumber 16600 255th Avenue | Spirit Lake

Directions: From Hwy. 9 & 71, turn south onto Hill Avenue and continue south to 165th Street. Turn east at 165th Street at the First Presbyterian Church. Continue until you come to the "T" in the road at 255th Avenue and turn south. The home will be about a mile and a half, on the lake side.

2 Bargen Home Improvement 21269 N Bay Drive | Spirit Lake

Directions: From Hwy. 9, turn west onto 155th Street before Rosenboom and continue for about one mile, just past the Dog Park. Turn north onto 215th Avenue, then continue for about ¼ of mile until you reach the N Bay Drive turn off on the southwest side.

3 Lee Custom Homes & CFE Lumber 20689 Circle Drive | Spirit Lake

Directions: From Hwy. 9, turn south on to 151st Street and get immediately onto War Eagle Boulevard. Continue for about half a mile until it meets Circle Drive. The boathouse will be on the west side.

Artistry by Peschon 1983 Highway 9 | Milford

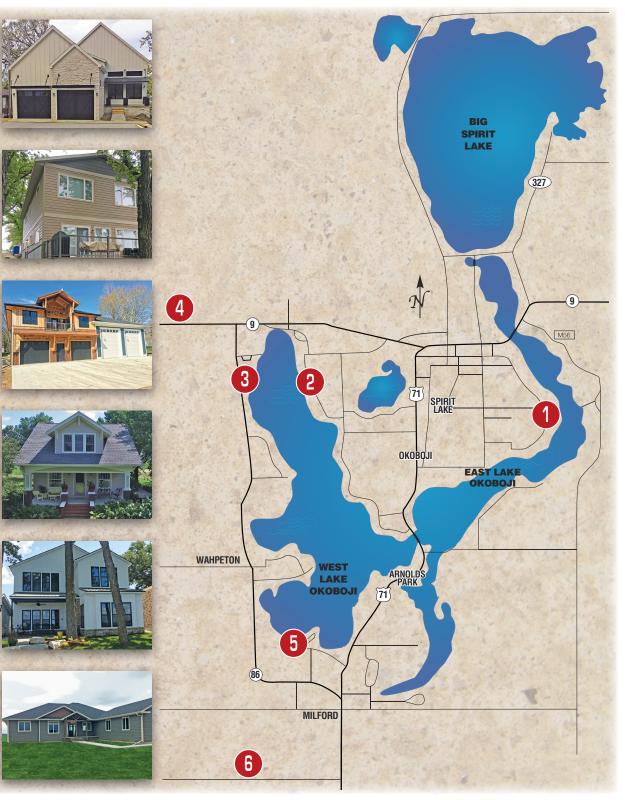
Directions: From Hwy. 9, continue west past Vick's Corner (intersection of Highways 9 & 86) for half a mile. The home will be the first acreage on the south side.

Lee Custom Homes 2722 Okoboji Boulevard | Milford

Directions: From Vick's Corner, head south on Hwy. 86 for 7 miles until you reach The Okoboji Classic Car Museum where you will turn south on to Jeppeson Road. Continue north until Jeppeson Road meets Okoboji Boulevard and head west for about ¾ of a mile. The home will be on the lakeside, right before the Jones Beach Gates.

6 Bargen Home Improvement 2007 240th Street | Milford

Directions: From Hwy. 71 in Milford, continue south of Milford one mile until you hit the gravel road, 240th Street. Turn west and continue for two miles until you see the home at the top of the hill, on the south side overlooking the valley.



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Home Builders 2019

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HBA BOARD MEMBERS - Pictured are Home Builders Association of Northwest Iowa board members from left to right: Kendra Clayton; Bryan Bargen, Bargen, Inc. (Director); Shelly Gustin, 3D Builders (President); Clyde Ihrke, The City of Spirit Lake (Secretary/Treasurer); Landon Howard, CFE Lumberyard (Director); and Derek Lee, Lee Custom Homes (Vice President). Not pictured: Patrick Swyter, Fourway Insulation (Director).





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Design a More Functional Pantry Many homeowners wish they had more storage space, and kitchens are one area where people seemingly can always use more storage.

Despite a desire for more kitchen space, until recently, kitchen pantries fell out of favor. Builders and architects may have thought that close proximity to supermarkets as well as multi-use cabinets in kitchens would offset the need for pantries. But according to a recent survey from the National Association of Home Builders, a kitchen pantry is the most desirable kitchen feature for buyers in the market for a new home.



According to a 2016 survey from ReportLinker, 98 percent of Americans say cooking at home is their preferred way to prepare a meal. And despite the wide array of restaurants, prepared meals and fast food options nearby, more than one-third of people cook at home daily, with nearly 50 percent cooking between three and six days a week.

In order to accommodate for spending more time in the kitchen, homeowners are directing additional attention to kitchen preparation and storage features. In fact, one recent trend in kitchen renovations is creating custom-designed pantries.

Locate the appropriate space - Ideally, pantries should be in or adjacent to the kitchen. But not every home layout allows for this setup. Some homeowners need to move storage pantries into the garage, the basement or a mud/laundry room.

Various factors should be considered before placing a pantry outside a kitchen. What is the climate? Will food spoil? Is there a possibility that vermin or insects can infiltrate the room and access food? These factors will dictate whether to have closed cabinets, air-tight bins or open shelves or if other modifications must be made to the room prior to building

Choose the type of pantry - Accessibility is essential in a pantry. Everything should be easily reached and grabbed as needed without having to move too many things. Ideally, foods should be arranged in a single layer so that all items can be viewed at a glance. Shelves of various depths and heights can accommodate items of different sizes. Adjustable shelves are ideal because they can be modified as foods change. Sliding drawers can improve reach in cabinets.

In smaller spaces, French door-style reach-in cabinets are convenient and flexible. In complete kitchen remodels or new constructions, walk-in pantries offer the most space and flexibility. Must-have features - Pantries serve different functions in different homes. For the bulk shop-

per, a pantry with plenty of room for large items will be needed.

Lighting can be beneficial in all pantries. Lights can improve visibility when trying to locate items. Others prefer an outlet for charging hand-held vacuums or other small appliances. Counter space in the pantry enables homeowners to unload groceries directly onto pantry shelves.

For pantries located outside of the kitchen, built-in freezers can maximize storage possibilities, especially for those who freeze-and-eat after bulk shopping ventures.

Pantries are popular features that homeowners can customize depending on their storage needs and the amount of time they spend in their kitchens. © http://mcg.metrocreativeconnection.com/publish/newmcc/

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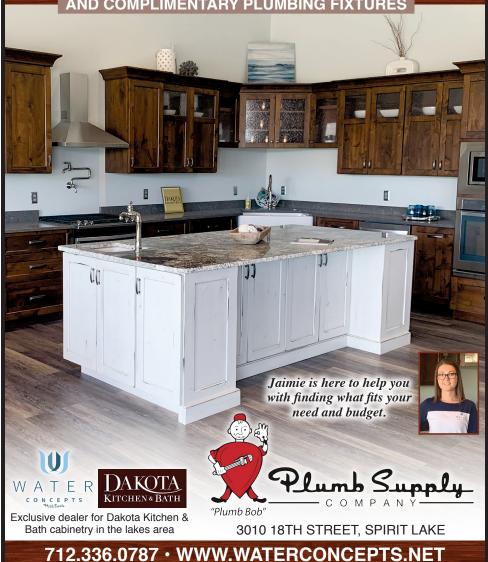
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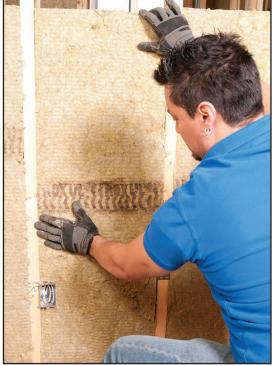
Employ Simple Fire Prevention Measures to Maximize Safety

Did you know that, according to the National Fire Protection Association, most people have a false sense of security regarding house fires, believing that they would have approximately six minutes to evacuate their home in the event of a fire?

In reality, smoke and fire spread rapidly and can overcome occupants in less than three minutes.

When a fire occurs, there's no question that time is critical. The good news is there are several important steps you can take to maximize your escape time. With the following measures in place, you'll create critical protection for what matters most — your home and family.

1. Install smoke alarms. You should have one in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. For the best protection, make sure all smoke alarms are interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound.



2. Inspect and clean smoke alarms monthly. Replace batteries in spring and fall. To clean the alarm, open the cover and gently vacuum the interior.

3. Prepare and practice a fire escape plan. Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of every room — especially sleeping areas. Discuss the escape routes with every member of your household, and agree on a meeting place outside your home in case of emergency. Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

4. Select building materials that provide passive fire protection. Passive fire protection is part of the core of the building and helps control fire by limiting its spread. One very effective form of passive fire protection is the installation of insulation. When adding or upgrading insulation, look for products made from naturally fireresistant, inorganic materials.

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H 🖅 M E Ten Bears, LC & CFE



16600 255th Avenue | Spirit Lake

This 4,000 square foot, 5 bedroom, 5 bath modern farmhouse combines the clean lines of contemporary design with

the farmhouse aesthetic. This gorgeous home sits high on 50-feet of lake front of East Lake Okoboji.

The main floor features 14-foot ceilings with a 25-foot vaulted ceiling lakeside great room and a gourmet kitchen. Custom barn wood accents throughout the main floor include a 26-foot barn wood wall and a sliding barn wood door in the master bedroom.

The kitchen has custom cabinetry, GE stainless appliances, and a hidden walk-in pantry.

The large island seats six has glass pendant lighting. There is room for a large dining table in this area. The great room overlooks the lake with a large hand-built stone gas fireplace with barn wood trim.

The master bedroom features lake views with a private entrance to the upper deck and secluded seating area. The master bath has a white marbled tile rain shower and wainscoting wall which accents the large soaking tub. The custom quartz floating vanity features dual white farmhouse-style sinks with plenty of storage. The large walkin closet is accessible from the master bath and also has an entrance to the upper level laundry room.

The lower level has four ensuite bedrooms with large closets and lake views. The bar is finished with stunning gray

oak cabinetry with quartz countertops, a builtin wine rack, shelving, refrigerator/freezer, sink, dishwasher, and lots of storage. The lower level also has a bonus room.

The heated garage is extra large to accommodate life at the lake (24 x 30 foot depth).

This home is energy efficient with a high-efficiency furnace/AC system and Marvin Integrity windows throughout. The exterior features two large cedar decks with custom metal work. The 80-foot dock has a large sun/swim platform area which is great for family life at the lake and the low lakeside

bank could easily be transformed into a beach.

Directions: From Hwy. 9 & 71, turn south onto Hill Avenue and continue south to 165th Street. Turn east at 165th Street at the First Presbyterian Church. Continue until you come to the "T" in the road at 255th Avenue and turn south. The home will be about a mile and a half, on the lake side.











21269 N Bay Drive | Spirit Lake

Come and see the transformation of a simple ranch lake home! The

roof was removed and a 1,400 square foot second story was added. The main floor was also remodeled in this single story home in the quiet Monarch Cove neighborhood on West Lake Okoboji. The addition and remodel were designed for John and Julie Schreurs by Daniel Bargen, of Bargen Incorporated of Mountain Lake, MN. The total finished living space in the house is 4,200 square feet.



Five bedrooms and two baths are located in the second story addi-

tion. There are a total of eight bedrooms and five baths in the house. On the main level there are two bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen, dining and a living room. Featured in the galley kitchen are all new appliances and new Cambria countertops.



with cable railing. A great layout of the family room in the lower level

walkout basement showcases traditional and lake décor finishes. The new addition is very energy efficient and built to meet and exceed the most recent building and energy codes.



<u>Directions</u>: From Hwy. 9, turn west onto 155th Street before Rosenboom and continue for about one mile, just past the Dog Park. Turn north onto 215th Avenue, then continue for about ¼ of a mile until you reach the N Bay Drive, turn off on the southwest side.

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Home Builders 2019 Tuesday, June 4, 2019 Page 8C Sound Control Key to a Calm, Relaxing Home

Inside and out, life can be loud. Retreat from the hustle and bustle of the world by making your home, or specific rooms within it, a calm, relaxing sanctuary.

There's a room in every house that could benefit from greater sound control, whether it's a home theater, music room, studio, home office, children's play room, bathroom, mechanical, or laundry room. Insulating properly will allow you to really enjoy your home that much more and achieve a higher level of comfort.

Experts suggest selecting a dense insulation with a non-directional fiber structure to combat airborne noise such as music, speech and foot traffic.

Certain sound dampening measures, such as carpeting, might also help alleviate echo and reverberation, as will acoustic panels that prevent sound reflections throughout a room. © http://mcg.metrocreativeconnection.com/publish/newmcc/





We Make

Finding Your Next Home

5 Benefits of Building an Eco-friendly Home

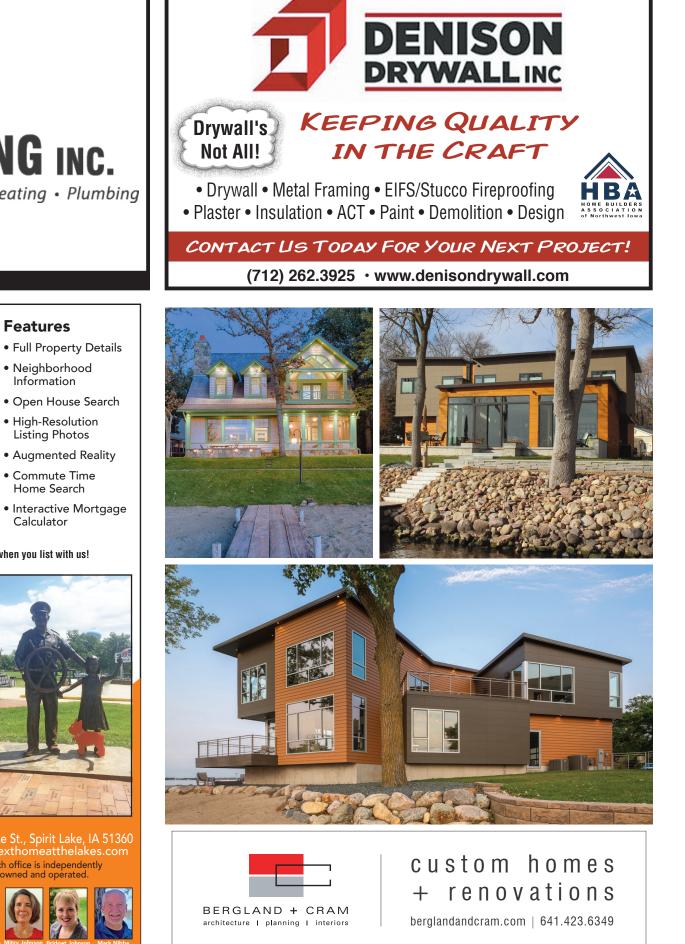
Environmentally friendly practices are trending everywhere — from our food to our clothing to our homes. Improved practices in the construction industry today reflect the greening of

building codes across America, and can be seen in advancements in window daylighting, insulation, air infiltration, and new wall-building materials.

But if you want to reap all of the benefits of an eco-friendly home, choose methods and materials that are even more energy efficient than the minimum re-



quired by building codes. If you want to reduce your energy consumption, conserve more and increase your property value, be sure to choose a builder who has a demonstrable record in eco-responsibility. © http://mcg.metrocreativeconnection.com/publish/newmcc/





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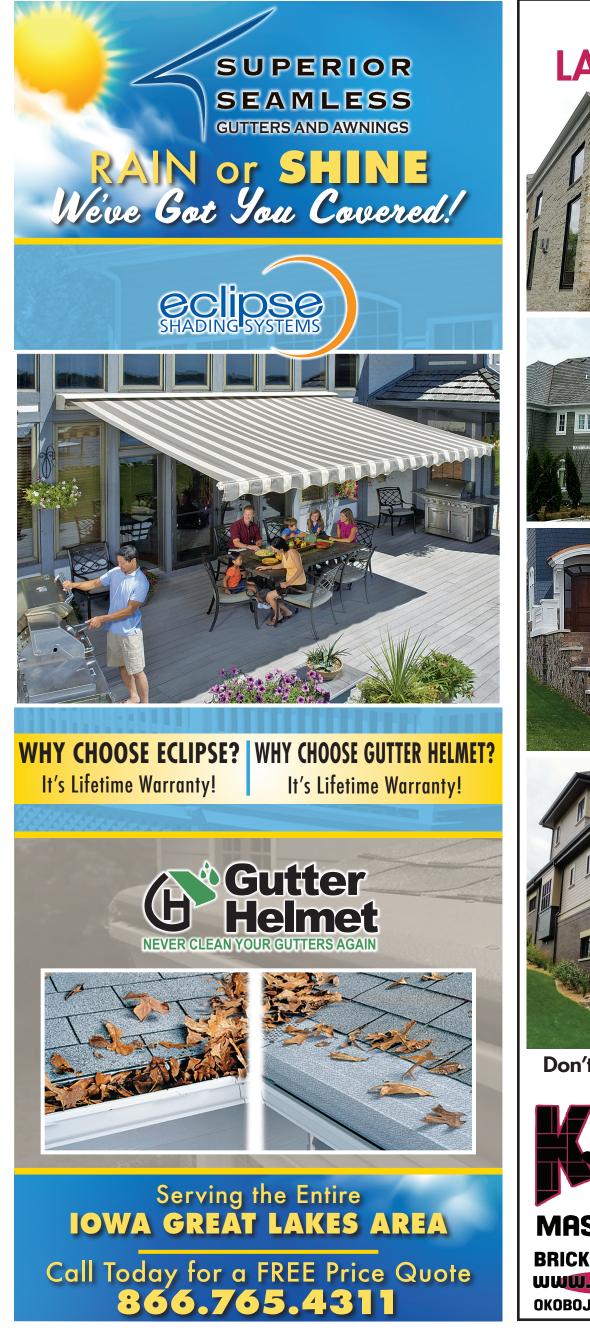
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Must-Have Kitchen Remodel Features

Homeowners looking to renovate often see room for improvement in their kitchens and bathrooms. The National Association of Home Builder's Remodeling Market Index Survey, which measures conditions in the remodeling market, indicates that, in

2015, the two most common remodeling jobs were bathroom remodels (81 percent) and kitchen remodels (79 percent). According to HGTV and Statistics Brain, a new kitchen remodel for a kitchen measuring 12 by 12 feet may cost homeowners anywhere from \$17,000 to \$37,000.

Before investing so much into their remodeling projects, homeowners should think carefully about the features that will improve their time spent at home. When planning a kitchen renovation, homeowners may want to consider the following upgrades to make the room more enjoyable while improving its functionality.

Oversized sink - Although high-efficiency dishwashers are popular, deep sinks to soak soup pots or woks are

still useful. Deep sinks may be preferable to double sinks, especially for homeowners who use lots of kitchen tools when preparing meals.

Soft-closing hinges - When replacing cabinets (or just the hardware), consider installing soft-closing hinges and slides on doors and drawers. These devices eliminate slamming and caught fingers, reducing noise and injuries in the kitchen.

Foot-pedal water operation - When outfitting a sink, think about foot controls, which are popular in doctors' offices and hospitals. Turning on the water with the tap of a foot can reduce the transfer of pathogens to faucets from hands during food preparation. These pedals also free up hands for other tasks.

Bottom's up - People likely spend more time raiding the refrigerator than the freezer on any given day. Rather than having to bend down to seek out that favorite flavor of Greek yogurt, choose a model with the fridge on top and freezer on the bottom, especially if anyone in the household has mobility issues. When shopping for refrigerators, French-door style units may offer even more access, making it easy for homeowners to slide fruit trays, sheet cakes and other large items into the fridge.

Extra lighting - A kitchen should be a balance of form and function. A combination of overhead lighting, decorative lighting and task lighting can illuminate all areas of the space effectively.

Appliance garages - Architectural and design resource Houzz says that appliance garages are popular kitchen additions, too. Set at countertop level, these cabinets allow people to keep small appliances plugged in but tucked neatly behind closed doors.

Kitchen remodels are a sizable investment, and renovations can be customized to make the kitchen more hospitable for all in residence.

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20689 Circle Drive | Spirit Lake

This is truly a one of a kind home, known as "The Boathouse". The exterior was designed to look like two different buildings. Half looks new and is painted navy blue and white. The other half was designed

to look like something you might see in an old oceanside fishing town. It's sided with natural cedar, changing to weathered gray.

The theme of two separate buildings continues once inside on the ground floor. Half the space has 16' side walls and 14' doors to accommodate a large boat, the other side is set up for three vehicles. The entire main floor has heated concrete floors and trench drains in the garage bays. Materials used

for wall coverings include steel and barnwood. There is also a half bath, storage room and boiler room on this level.

Hidden by a vintage 1960s walk-in freezer door, you will find access to the second floor of the home; this is the main living space containing two bedrooms, a bathroom and the laundry room. At the top of the stairs, the living space is open and inviting. A kitchen and dining room are on one side and living room on the other. The walls in the

main space are a combination of aged shiplap, tongue and groove wainscoting, brick and barnwood. The kitchen has beautiful rustic red oak cabinets stained black and quartz counters. The backsplash is brick tile, and runs all the way to the ceiling behind open shelves. The living room's accent wall looks like the inside of an old farm shed. Between the living area and kitchen is access to an outdoor patio. The bathroom includes a custom vanity, and subway tiled



tub surround. There are two bedrooms with walk-in closets, a laundry room and mudroom.

Lee Custom Homes worked with the owners continuously through the project to create this one-of-a-kind build. This home is filled with custom touches and unique material choices.

Directions: From Hwy. 9, turn south onto 151st Street and get immediately onto War Eagle Boulevard. Continue for about half a mile until it meets Circle Drive. The boathouse will be on the west side.



H 🐏 ME Artistry by Peschon



1983 Highway 9 | Spirit Lake

Nestled at the head of the Iowa Great Lakes, this fully updated 1928 vintage craftsman style farmhouse is just close enough to all the amenities of Okoboji, but just far enough away to distance yourself

from the hustle and bustle of Okoboji, and life in general. Originally built for a family, with three bedrooms and a full bath upstairs, the main level houses the kitchen, formal dining, living room, office nook and a second bathroom, it functions perfectly for empty nesters with room to welcome home their family. This 1,523 square foot home is situated on a full ten acres where there's room to expand with more buildings or additions. It gives you the opportunity to send your children or grandchildren out to



explore the potting shed converted into a playhouse.

A special thanks to 3D Builders who helped with the updates on this property including new windows, roofing, siding, soffit, insulation, electrical and a detached heated and cooled garage that is perfect for a "man cave" or "she shed", built in 2015. Dakota Kitchen and Bath quarter sawn wood with inset cabinet doors and Cambria countertops grace the kitchen along with other custom Craftsman details throughout the home. An addition of a three-season room on the

south side of the house offers an opportunity to see fireworks over West Lake Okoboji and a scenic view of the grounds.

An original clay tile silo and barn, original Morton Building Style "C" granary and a 45 x 66-foot machine shed/shop (built in 2008) gives this acreage an old style "Grandpa's Farm" atmosphere that is disappearing at a rapid pace in the Midwest. Surrounding the perimeter of this acreage is a .49-mile walk-



ing path that takes you in and out of the native prairie restoration that flanks this acreage. Anyone who loves gardening and butterflies will appreciate the abundance of flowers.

This acreage will be for sale later this summer. Stop by during the "Parade of Homes" for a preview and pick up additional information.

Directions: From Hwy. 9, continue west past Vick's Corner (intersection of Highways 9 & 86) for half a mile. The home will be the first acreage on the south side.

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Did you know?

Eco-friendly real estate trends are growing in popularity, as more and more home buyers are looking for ways to protect the planet and reduce the often considerable costs associated with home ownership. In a survey of more than 1,000 consumers in the United States, SurveyMonkey.com, working in conjunction with Blueshift Research, found that 1 in 3 consumers prefer eco-friendly products, and 35 percent are willing to spend more money on products that are good for the environment. Such trends are reflected in the real industry, where many buyers are looking for tinier homes that produce smaller carbon footprints. According to the National Association of Home Builders, the average new home in 2015 was expected to be roughly 2,200 square feet. That's roughly 10 percent smaller than the average new home built in 2010. Smaller homes consume less energy, which appeals to homeowners looking to save money and live more eco-friendly lifestyles. In addition to smaller homes, homeowners are increasingly looking to sustainable materials when building or renovating their homes. Products that conserve water, including low-flow toilets and water-conserving showerheads, have also grown in popularity.

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2722 Okoboji Boulevard | West Okoboji

This beautiful home was designed to simultaneously take advantage of terrific views of Emerson Bay and fit on a narrow lot. The main level was designed with lakeside entertaining in mind, the open concept

takes full advantage of panoramic views of Emerson Bay State Park all the way to the Highway 71 Bridge. The kitchen is at the center of the home and features white Omega cabinets, from CFE in Okoboji. There is also a large center island with plenty of seating space for family and guests. From the kitchen, there is access to both the covered lakeside patio and living room. The living room features a custom,



two-sided fireplace and beautiful natural hickory flooring. Also on the main level, is a half bath and large laundry/mud room. The staircase built by Lee Custom Homes features a railing by Alger Customs and shiplap accent wall above the landing.

Upstairs, the home has a large lakeside master suite. The master bath is the most impressive part of the second floor of the home. It features a gorgeous free-standing tub and custom tile shower, both with lake

views! Flooring and shower tiles were chosen from Okoboji Tile Shop. There are also custom floating vanities and a heated tile floor. Also upstairs are three guest bedrooms. Two feature direct bath access and plenty of closet space. The fourth bedroom could be used as an office or space for weekend visitors.



Back downstairs, the lakeside patio is only

steps from the water and features a beautiful fireplace, outdoor TV, overhead heaters and a unique stamped concrete floor. Concrete pavers and landscaping, by Blue Water Prairie Landscape and Design, extend the patio and provide additional space for summer entertaining.

Directions: From Vick's Corner, head south on Hwy. 86 for 7 miles until you reach The Okoboji Classic Car Museum where you will turn south on to Jeppeson Road. Continue north until Jeppeson Road meets Okoboji Boulevard and head west for about ³/₄ of a mile. The home will be on the lakeside, right before the Jones Beach Gates.



2007 240th Street | Milford

Step into this charming home/farm acreage overlooking a large river valley that has been custom built by Bargen, Inc. This 4,888 square foot home was designed by Daniel Bargen, and will be used as a

young family's primary residence. Welcoming you into this beautiful home are stained beams that support and frame the front porch with a wood V-groove ceiling. Boulder Creek stone around the front stoop adds warmth and interest.



This house features three bedrooms and two baths, a great room, dining room, kitchen with a walk in pantry, mudroom

and laundry, all on the main floor. The unfinished lower level will eventually be home to two more bedrooms, an exercise room, family room, hobby room, mechanical room and one full bath. On the main floor, the kitchen, dining, front and rear entry areas have beautiful luxury vinyl flooring.

The main floor features open concept living with 9-foot ceilings and a 10-foot tray ceiling in the great room. Floor to ceiling windows in

the great room draw you to the spectacular view of the river valley. This same view can also be seen in the dining room and master suite. Showplace cabinetry and quartz countertops are featured in the kitchen and master suite. The master suite also enjoys a beautifully crafted walk-in ceramic tile shower. Attractive LP Smart Siding is featured on the exterior of this home. This home has been designed and built to meet or exceed energy efficiency standards.



Directions: From Hwy. 71 in Milford, continue south of Milford one mile until you hit the gravel road, 240th Street. Turn west and continue for two miles until you see the home at the top of the hill, on the south side overlooking the valley.

The History of the Home Builders Association of Northwest Iowa

The Home Builders Association of Northwest Iowa is an association of builders, developers, subcontractors and related businesses who are dedicated to providing a decent home and suitable environment for the local community. Our objectives are to:

- Encourage and foster high ethical standards in our profession
- Take active interest in the welfare of our communities
- Exchange ideas, business methods and transactions with other builders and associations
- Strive for legislation beneficial to the home building industry

Members of the Home Builders Association of Northwest Iowa are also members of the Home Builders Association of Iowa as well as the National Home Builders Association which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year and has over 140,000 members which makes it one of the most influential trade associations in the country.

ASSOCIATION

of Northwest lowa

Our local chapter formed in the late 1970s and as the economy expanded in northwest Iowa our membership grew. In 1994 our Association was incorporated. The Greg Magg Memorial Scholarship was established in 1998 to offer scholarships to help further the education of young men and women who are interested in pursuing an occupation in a technical area relating to building or related vocation.

In (1996?) the Association began sponsoring the Annual Parade of Homes and Building Products Show that attracts thousands of potential customers from throughout the Midwest. The funds raised through the Parade of Homes enabled the Association to give back to the community by contributing our talents and money to area projects. Over the years we have added to our scholarship fund, and supported Camp Foster, Bedell YMCA, Home for Dalton, Lakes Community Land Trust and Renew Store, Homes for Habitat and Upper Des Moines.

The Association members have served as an advisory board for the trade programs at Iowa Lakes Community College and local high schools.

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Did you know?

A globally recognized symbol of sustainability achievement, LEED, an acronym for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is the most widely used green building rating system in the world. The LEED rating system is used in more than 165 countries and territories across the globe, providing a framework for nearly all building, community and home project types and helping builders, businesses and eco-conscious homeowners create highly efficient and cost-saving green buildings. In fact, according to the U.S. Green Building Council, more than 2.2 million square feet is LEED-certified every day.

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Emerging Deck Trends

Custom-built decks can expand usable outdoor entertaining spaces. Decks can surround pools and create outdoor patio areas that make it easy to establish multitiered living spaces, improving the functionality of outdoor areas.

Certain deck trends have emerged as industry experts' top picks for the upcoming remodeling and renovation season. For those thinking of revamping an existing deck, or building an entirely new one, these trends are on point.

• Established perimeters: "Picture framing" is not a new trend, but one that has taken greater hold in recent years. The term refers to aesthetically appealing designs that conceal the ends of deck boards for a clean finish. Some designs feature contrasting material colors on the ends for even more impact. This helps create refined perimeters for a polished look.

• Roof-top decking: Urban areas also can benefit from decking to create usable outdoor spaces. In fact, many new condominium and townhouse communities are incorporating roof-top

decks into their designs, particularly in communities with water views or other impressive vistas. HGTV experts suggest roof-top decks feature light-colored materials and fixtures to help keep the area cool even in direct sunlight.

• Distressed hardwood: Builder and Developer, a management resource for professional homebuilders, says that the trend for using distressed hardwoods at home has migrated outside. Some decking manufacturers have recently introduced low-maintenance composite deck boards that mimic the look and feel of distressed, rustic hardwood flooring. This weathered appearance gives the look of age without the upkeep of real aged wood.

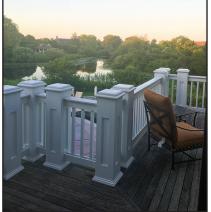
• Wooden walkways: Decking can be the more traditional design people envision with a patio table or outdoor furniture. But it also can consist of wooden walkways or a low-laying patio to accentuate the yard.

• Mixed materials: Homeowners may be inspired by commercial eateries, breweries and urban markets in their exterior design choices. Decks featuring composite materials and aluminum railings blend sophistication, urban appeal and comfort.

• Personal touches: Homeowners can customize their decks with personal touches. It's not unheard of to wrap columns in stone or glass tiles for more impact. And a vast array of decking colors now enables fun interpretations for outdoor areas.

• Fire pit conversation area: Many decks can incorporate water or fire elements for visual appeal. Gas-fueled fire elements can expand the functionality of decks beyond the warm seasons, or make enjoying them practical on nights when the temperature plummets.

Decks are reimagined in many different ways with continually evolving trends. © *http://mcg.metrocreativeconnection.com/publish/newmcc/*



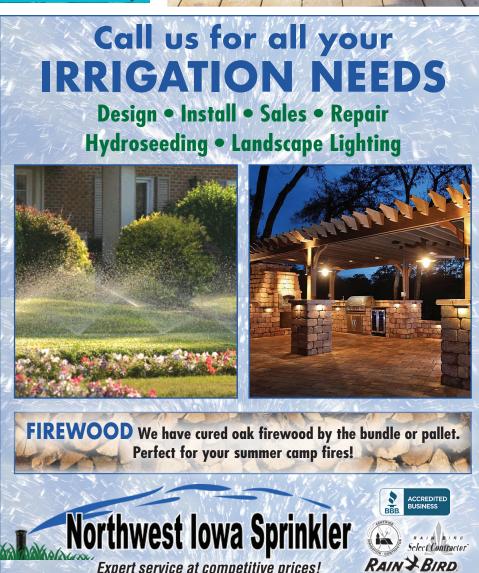


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Discovery House provides a safe, supportive, Christian environment for the homeless and those recovering from addictions. Residents receive counseling and tools to begin to build a new foundation for a better life. Six-months is the typical stay at Discovery House, while residents get on their feet and make plans to become independent again. With a capacity of ten residents, individuals share bedrooms and common areas with other residents. Discovery House has been serving the Iowa Great Lakes and beyond for 26 years, since 1993.

Daniel House is a sober house for residents who have lived at Discovery House for six months and are not quite ready to live on their own. With a capacity of seven residents, individuals sign a one-year lease at Daniel House. They may renew their lease as long as they comply with expectations. Individuals have a private room and share common areas with other tenants. Daniel House began its operation in 2017.

When Discovery House purchased the Daniel House, the previous owner had plans to redo the upstairs and had it down to bare walls. Discovery house saw the potential to add more rooms which meant the possibility to help more people. They then contacted the Home Builders Association to coordinate the project as we were already in the beginning stages of planning a garage makeover before they purchased the new home. Bryan Bargen, with Bargen, Inc., became foreman of the project due to his extensive work with Habitat for Humanity. Then, between all of the Home Builder Association members and even beyond our members and into the community, people started donating either time, material or funds.



As an association it was very heartbreaking to cancel our Parade of Homes last year due to weather, but fortunately we were able to throw ourselves even more into this project and donate more funds than expected, due to the generous donation of industrial support from last year's parade. Please thank the local businesses that have donated to make this project a reality! We are in the finishing stages of converting this unfinished upstairs into a five bedroom, two bath living area with a pice family room. We can't wait to see it completed so Discovery House can continue to serve and

bath living area with a nice family room. We can't wait to see it completed so Discovery House can continue to serve and bless our community!



At the Discovery House | 1411 Hill Ave., Spirit Lake 6:00-6:30 p.m. - Grilled Hot Dogs & Brats 6:30-8:30 p.m. - Music

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Improve Entertaining Spaces

Some homes are seemingly built for entertaining, while others may need a little help to make them more fit for hosting dinner, holiday gatherings or an evening with friends.

Overall, one-quarter of people entertain guests in their home either daily or weekly across the globe. One-third entertain monthly, according to findings from GFK Insights.

People who open their homes to loved ones may want to make some modifications to their spaces to improve the experience for all involved.

• Tame the clutter. Look for ways to reduce clutter in rooms where entertaining takes place. Built-ins with bookshelves and cabinets can



hide electronics and wayward toys or collectibles. Focus attention on the entryway, hanging hooks for collecting coats, keys and shoes, so they do not overrun the foyer. Remove any knickknacks or other breakable items from shelves or on coffee tables to free up more space.

• Improve conversation seating. Arrange tables and chairs to create conversation nooks for guests who want to talk and get to know one another better. Consider moving out big and bulky sofas in favor of love seats or comfortable chairs that will take up less room and improve flow in entertaining areas.

• Find the pieces you like. Think about how you tend to entertain and then cater your space to those preferences. For example, a large dining table with fold-out extensions or leaves is ideal for someone who regularly hosts formal dinner parties. Renovate a room to include a small bar and club chairs for a lounge feel if cocktail parties are typical.

• Improve lighting. Work with an electrician and/or designer who can offer ideas for lighting that can set the mood for entertaining. Rooms that are dull and dim can benefit from overhead lighting fixtures if there are none already available. Task lighting in the kitchen under cabinets can make it easy to prepare food for guests. Wall sconces or focused lighting on artwork can establish a dramatic effect.

• Do major construction. Consider working with a builder to make some changes if you simply don't have the space to entertain. Taking down a wall can open kitchens to living spaces, while adding a deck or three-season room off the kitchen or dining room can provide more space for guests to congregate.

• Install a guest bath. Update or add a bathroom near the main entertaining areas. This allows guests to discretely use the bathroom and keeps them from roaming in areas of the house you would prefer they avoid.

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