JUNE 2020 | THE MORNING JOURNAL

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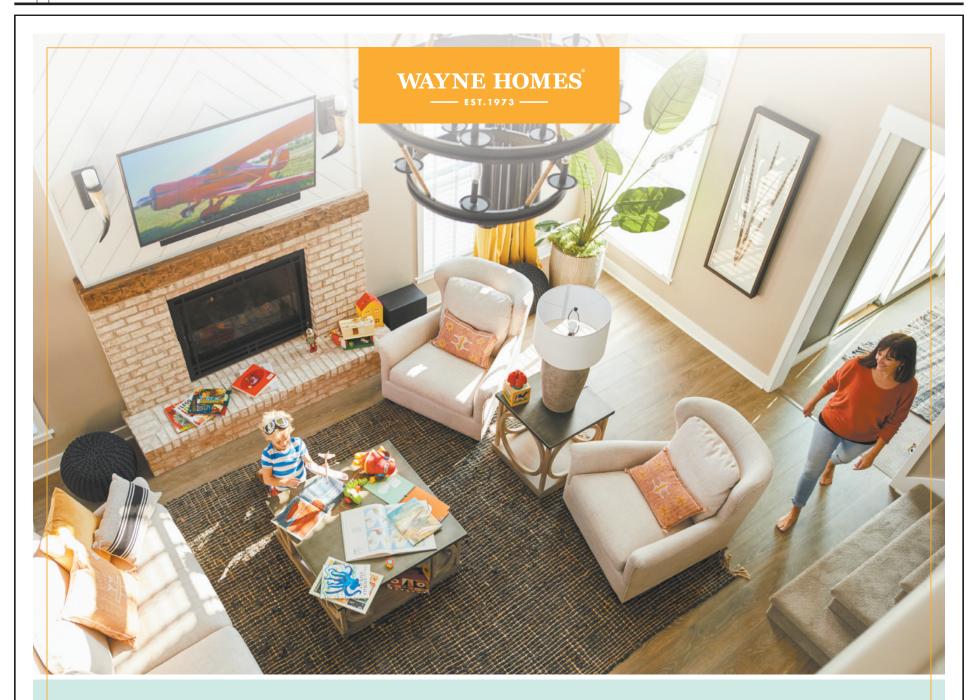




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WEATHER THE STORM Prepare early for power outages and other storm impacts

(Family Features) Surging spring temperatures can bring volatility that translates into major weather events. The 2020 storm season could see above-average probability for major hurricanes hitting the United States coastline and the Caribbean, according to the annual Colorado State Tropical Meteorology Forecast.

As those in the paths of seasonal storms know, property damage and power outages come with the territory. Being prepared for weather disasters and power outages is critical to protecting property, productivity and well-being.

Assess external threats. Before storm season arrives, take inventory of potential problems outdoors that could be exacerbated by bad weather. For example, trees may need trimming if limbs threaten power lines, the house or other structures on your property. Also examine the house for necessary repairs, such as loose guttering, shutters or shingles that may need to be secured and torn screens, all of which can worsen in heavy weather and cause more damage.

Another consideration is items that could topple in heavy winds, such as barbecue grills or lawn furniture. When possible, look for ways to secure these items so they don't take flight, aren't destroyed or cause additional damage.

Assemble emergency resources. An overnight storm is no time to discover your flashlight batteries are dead or you don't have the right size batteries to replace them. Making time to update your stash of storm supplies before weather hits can save some frustration and help ensure you're prepared to safely wait out the storm.

In addition to replacing flashlight batteries and

checking that they're in good working order, if you don't have a light source in every room it's a good plan to place flashlights or lanterns in rooms where you may need to be able to see in an emergency. The idea is to give everyone in the family the ability to illuminate their path and move safely through the house no matter where they are when the lights go out.

Part of your preparation should also include restocking your first-aid kit. Some items in the kit, like ointments and medications, can expire so you'll need to replenish anything you've used and double-check that the contents are still safe to use. If you don't already have them, be sure to add a battery-operated radio and a portable power bank so you have access to news updates and can charge a low phone battery.

Take inventory of your non-perishable food items to ensure you have plenty of options on hand in the event power stays off through one or more meals. You may also want to stockpile some books and board games for convenient access to entertainment while your power is down.

Make power plans. Because power outages area near certainty during severe weather season, reliable electricity is a necessity for powering work, school and daily life. An appropriately sized standby generator can ensure your home power doesn't miss a beat when faced with seasonal storms. Because standby generators are fueled by natural gas or liquid propane, the tank doesn't require regular refueling with gasoline which means no last-minute trips to the gas station when your generator runs out of gas.

"Standby generators can power an entire home, and because they are wired to the home's electrical system so there is minimal interruption," said Brian Northway, Briggs & Stratton field service manager. "When a storm knocks out power, the generator automatically takes over to deliver power, allowing you to take care of family and accomplish what you need to rather than worry about the power outage."

Generators with a smart power management system, such as the line of units offered by Briggs & Stratton, can help manage high-wattage appliance priority. These power management technologies allow a homeowner to prioritize the power they need during an outage at a lower upfront acquisition cost.

Learn more about standby power options at powernow.com.



HOW BIG OF A GENERATOR DO YOU NEED?

It can be easiest to determine which type of home standby generator system is right for your household by first thinking about what items your family needs to remain functioning normally during a power outage. The number of home appliances or electrical loads you want to power will determine the size and cost of the generator.

There are generally three different types of standby generators, which vary based on how much your home needs to power:

Select Circuit Home Generators: Power Essential Appliances

A select-circuit generator system is a cost-effective way to power your home's basics to get you comfortably through a power outage. These units can power up to 10 electrical loads in your home, including the fridge, some lights, television and the microwave. Managed Whole-House Power Generators: Smaller, More Power

A standby generator equipped with a smart power management solution gives your family the benefits of whole-house power with a smaller, more affordable generator system. These home generator systems can power all your electrical needs, including up to two air conditioners.

Whole-House Generators: Maximum Backup Power Needs

Whole-house standby generator options are typically used as backup power solutions for extra-large and luxury homes. They power an array of high-wattage appliances, from double ovens to hot tubs with commercial-grade performance.

How home design trends are evolving for social distancing

(MS) — COVID-19 has brought changes to everything, and home design is no exception. Experts are expecting to see lasting impacts on everything from the materials we use to the rooms we prioritize. Check out these and other noteworthy trends:

Houses over apartments: Many people who live in condos or apartments do so to be closer to the action — work, entertainment and shops and never planned on spending much time at home. But the pandemic has changed that, and more people are going to want a home that offers plenty of room and outdoor space in case they need to self-isolate again.

Self-sufficiency: A hard lesson we've learned is that things and services we thought we could count on aren't necessarily a sure thing, so items that increase self-reliance will become very popular. Expect to see more homes with sources of energy like solar panels, sources of heat like fireplaces and stoves, and even urban and indoor gardens that allow you to grow your own produce.

Outdoor living: Between play-

grounds closing and parks becoming overcrowded, many of us are turning to our balconies, patios and backyards for fresh air and nature. This means we're going to be investing more in our outdoor spaces, with functional kitchens, soothing water features, cozy firepits, and high-quality outdoor furniture to create a much-needed escape.

Healthier spaces: Thanks to spending more time indoors and reprioritizing our health, we'll turn to design to help ensure our homes are safe and healthy for our families. We'll see a rise in products like water filtration systems as well as materials that improve indoor air quality. For new homes and additions, alternatives to wood-framing like insulated concrete forms from Nudura, which offer improved ventilation for healthier indoor air quality and an environment that's less susceptible to mold, will be key.

Home office space: Business experts are suggesting many companies will see that working from home is not only possible but offers tangible benefits, like saving money on office space rent. With working from home on the



rise, creating a home office space that inspires productivity will be a major project many of us tackle. Luxury home office furniture that feels chic and blends into your décor as well as ergonomic chairs and desks will see a major boost.

Custom and quality: With the hit to the economy, people are going to

be buying less, but what they do buy will be better quality, while at the same time making an effort to support American businesses. When it comes to design, trends will shift to locally made furniture, custom-built homes and pieces and materials that stand the test of time.

Find more information at nudura.com.

FAMILY FUN WITH FUDGSICLES

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(Family Features) Planning snacks you can enjoy with your children is a winning parenting strategy for spending more time together while creating tasty treats. Take it a step further with a recipe like these Homemade Fudgsicles, which are an ideal example of an easy treat made with the goodness of real milk kids can help make, giving them an added incentive to enjoy moments together. To help your children reach the recommended 2-3 servings of dairy each day, serve with a glass of milk. Find more snack recipes at <u>milkmeansmore.org</u>.

HOMEMADE FUDGSICLES

Recipe courtesy of Milk Means More Total time: 10 minutes plus 12 hours chill time Servings: 12

- cups milk
- cup sugar
- 3/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 ice pop sticks

In pot over medium heat, heat milk, sugar, cocoa powder, honey and salt, stirring often, until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and cool to room temperature. Pour into ice pop molds and insert sticks then freeze until firm, about 12 hours. Remove ice pops from molds and place in freezer-safe bag until ready to eat.

Find Inspiration in Award-Winning Home Design

(Family Features) Award-winning renovation projects aren't just a way to identify top-notch contractors, they're a chance for homeowners to gather ideas and learn from other home improvement success stories. One such source of inspiration is the National Contractor of the Year (CotY) Award Winners who are honored each year by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. A panel of industry experts anonymously selected winners based on

Residential Exterior Under \$50,000

The clients wanted to move the side entrance of this home to its original location in the front. City approval was contingent on returning specific historic architectural details, including replacing the brick columns with historically accurate wood columns and installing doors and windows more in line with the 1910 era when the house was built.

"In New Orleans, we are very sensitive to preserving the historic character of our houses, so this was an important goal for both the homeowners and the city," said Chris Kornman of Entablature, LLC in New Orleans. "We learned that history often directs the design down a path the owner may not have been considering."



the functionality, aesthetics, craftsmanship, innovation and degree of difficulty of their projects. Find inspiration in these 2020 residential project winners, and see the complete list at nari.org.

Residential Landscape Design/ Outdoor Living Over \$250,000

This narrow, sloping site was made functional with a multi-terrace design that added a pool, patio, deck and level natural turf yard in a compact space that was constrained by a steep hillside above and a marsh below. LED rope lighting on risers improved visibility and promoted stair safety while porcelain tile and plank decking cooled swimmers' bare feet. "The work to create inspired spaces is highly collaborative and is driven by understanding, relationship and vision," said James Sweeney of Mom's Design Build in Shakopee, Minnesota. "If you can enjoy the journey, the end result will be even better."



Residential Addition \$100,000-\$250,000 Ultimately, this two-story addition included a sunroom and a second-floor master bedroom and bathroom. However, due to problems with a previous contractor, structural issues with the existing framing needed correcting first. The result was an open living space and new 870-square-foot master suite upstairs.

"This project taught me that customers are looking not only for a skilled contractor, but one that will listen, understand and empathize with them," said Allen Deuschle with Kansas City Remodel & Handyman Allen LLC in Overland Park, Kansas. "I spent extra hours prior to a signed contract listening to their needs, ideas, offering suggestions and assessing unresolved issues."



Residential Addition Over \$250,000

The goal of this project was to integrate a kitchen, dining and mudroom addition with an open floor plan to accommodate large gatherings while maintaining an intimate spatial feel. Varied ceiling treatments, including a coffered living room, a smooth kitchen ceiling and a custom vaulted dining room ceiling helped differentiate the spaces.

"We encountered some interesting structural challenges that involved a complex weaving and concealing of steel beams and columns," said Mike Fought with Nicholson Builders in Columbus, Ohio. "The new beams and columns took the place of load-bearing exterior walls, and this created visual connection through the home, specifically upon entry at the front door."



Entire House \$250,000-\$500,000

In this project, an old, weathered beach cottage was transformed into a modern dream home with a complete overhaul of both the exterior and interior. Modern design elements were added throughout, including a kitchen with waterfall countertops, a fireplace with black brick and white stucco and a cable railing system surrounding the mahogany deck.

"During this remodel we were reminded that each new project brings an opportunity to learn or to improve a current process," said Fred Vazac with Vazac Contracting Corp. in Saint James, New York. "We opted to use a precast concrete diamond footing that was perfect in the sandy environment. We still use this type of footing on other projects."

