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At Patriot Heating and Cooling, we believe that comfort is more than just a temperature—it's peace of mind. For years, we've proudly served our community, ensuring families stay warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and safe all year round.

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Fuller Flooring & Design, located in historic Downtown Willoughby, has been providing fine quality floor coverings and furniture since 1929. This family business goes above and beyond to help you in every aspect of the flooring and furniture buying process.

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Our furniture showroom features Smith Brothers furniture, which is custom built to order, with over 100 leathers and 1000 fabrics to choose from. This way, we can make your furniture the perfect fit for your décor. To compliment your Smith Brothers furniture we offer occasional tables, lamps, unique accessories and much more!

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Lake-Geauga Habitat for Humanity is building two new homes in Painesville this year, and one of them could be yours! Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families in need purchase safe, affordable homes. The two new homes will be the 99th and 100th home built by Lake-Geauga Habitat. Applicants are chosen based on need, ability to pay a mortgage and willingness to partner with Habitat by volunteering on build sites and at

our Eastlake ReStore. Homeownership program participants will also attend financial management and home maintenance classes.

Applications for the homeownership program are now open – This is your chance to own a home and build a brighter future for you and your family.

Visit www.lake-geaugahabitat. org/homeownership or call 440-226-3000 x7 to learn more about the program and receive an application.







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We're located across from the east end of the Lake County Fairgrounds on Mentor Avenue in Painesville.

We have lots of unique products to offer. Our store consists of a Fireplace Shop, Pond Store, Grill & Kitchen Shop as well as a Brick & Stone Yard. Another department offers a full line of Outdoor Structures and Outdoor Furniture. Come check out our displays that help you make your decisions more enjoyable! We have over 2000 square feet of displays installed including patios, sidewalks, retaining walls, sitting walls, ponds and water features. We also have numerous types of natural stone displayed such as edging, walls and pond applications.

We carry a complete line of Poly Furniture on display from dining sets to rockers and loungers. You can sit down and feel the comfort of different designs to see what type of furniture fits you best.

You can have a lot of fun wandering through our displays and store areas. You never know...you might find just the item you've been searching for!! Our wonderful staff can help guide you through all of your DIY projects from start to finish to make your project go smoothly and be a true enjoyment in the end.

Pros and cons of open concept floor plans

Open floor plans that make it easy to move through primary living and entertaining areas have been popular for decades. Open concept floor plans join the dining room, kitchen and living (great) room into a communal space where sight lines are maximized and walls are minimal.

According to JJones Design Co., the origins of open concept floor plans may be traced to the deaf community. An open layout allows for better visual communication and awareness of one's surroundings, and some deaf individuals modified their

kitchen and living spaces to facilitate more room for social gatherings and signing. Nowadays, it's nearly impossible to find a new construction with closed-off rooms. Here's a look at some of the pros and cons of having an open-concept home.

Benefit: Open concept plans make small spaces feel bigger. When smaller homes are broken up by walls, they can seem even smaller. By tearing down walls, one can trick the mind into thinking there is more square footage.

SEE PAGE 14

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Steadfast Plumbing & Heating is a family owned and operated company. Owning this business has been a heartfelt dream of Josh and his wife Tara for many years. He has diligently worked in the industry as a residential & commercial plumber, HVAC technician, foreman and "The guy you can call when you don't know how to fix something." As Josh always happily answers every call! After 20+ years Josh decided to step out in faith, with Tara by his side and open this family service company to demonstrate to their children that with hard work, dedication and trust in God, all things are possible! At Steadfast, our mission is simple with passion and integrity, we hold ourselves to a higher standard! To accomplish quality troubleshooting, repairs or installs in an efficient and transparent manner. The difference is we pride ourselves on being respectful and accountable in every job.

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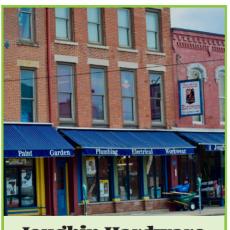
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What sets 3rd Generation apart is its dedication to quality materials, expert installations, and customer-first service. Whether it's a full roofing replacement, energy-efficient window upgrades, or premium siding solutions, the company ensures every project is executed with precision and care, backed by strong warranties for added peace of mind.

Beyond installations, 3rd Generation

Home Improvements is a company built on trust. From the first consultation to the final walkthrough, their team prioritizes transparency and education, ensuring homeowners understand their options and feel confident in their investment. Customers consistently praise the company's professionalism, attention to detail, and ability to transform homes while enhancing long-term value.

To streamline projects and enhance customer experience, 3rd Generation utilizes modern technology for project tracking, accurate estimates, and efficient job coordination. Additionally, they offer flexible financing options to make home improvements more affordable, allowing homeowners to invest in quality upgrades while staying within budget.

For homeowners in search of a reliable, experienced, and innovative team to handle their next project, 3rd Generation Home Improvements continues to be the name they can trust. To learn more about their services, financing options, or to schedule a consultation, visit 3rdgenerationhomeimprovements.com/ or call 440-850-5592.

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Our Vision - The vision of Western Reserve Community Development Corporation is to breathe new life into communities by renovating the homes of low-income clients; eliminating blighted vacancy by acquiring and rehabilitating residential and commercial properties; WRCDC will also create new and innovative affordable housing solutions; and provide a "New Directions for Living" transitional affordable housing program for victims of domestic violence, the homeless, and those recovering from substance abuse.

Contact us at 440-357-4400

Did you know?

Wood could be having a moment among modern home buyers. According to the real estate experts at Zillow, the term "cozy" appeared in 35 percent more real estate listings in 2024 than in 2023. Though various components can help to create a cozy vibe inside a home, wood has long been a go-to material when interior designers attempt to add warmth to a property. The home renovation experts at Houzz also cite wood-infused architectural warmth among its 10 most popular home trends in the coming year. Homeowners who want to capitalize on this trend before putting their homes on the market or those who simply love the idea of adding more wood-based warmth in their homes can consider installing ceiling beams, wood wall paneling or even wood trim throughout their homes.

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PROS AND CONS FROM PAGE 5

Drawback: The space may feel too large. An open concept floor plan in a large home can make interior spaces feel cavernous. A cozy home can be difficult to achieve with fewer walls.

Benefit: Open concept plans facilitate the flow of natural light. Without walls to break up rooms, homeowners can maximize light coming in through their windows. This also may help to brighten darker rooms that do not get as much natural light.

Drawback: Privacy can be hard to achieve. Unobstructed views from windows and doors can make it more challenging to create privacy when desired. When window shades are open, passersby can see into a home.



Also, sunlight may end up wearing out flooring and furniture throughout the home.

Benefit: Open floor plans allow more space to spread out when entertaining. One of the biggest plusses of open floor plans is that it makes it easier to host crowds. Guests can eniov the communal space, while hosts can still interact with friends and family even while preparing meals in

Drawback: Homeowners will likely need to do more cleaning ahead of hosting guests, as multiple rooms will be on display. Also, cleanup afterwards may be more arduous since guests have spent time in multiple spaces.

Benefit: Open concept plans can improve property value. The home renovation experts at The Spruce note open floor plans are desirable and increase the value of a home by up to 7.4 percent a year.

Drawback: Some home buyers are



beginning to shy away from open floor plans. This may have been prompted by stay-at-home requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, when multiple family members were working and doing school work at home. In that environment. an open-concept layout didn't pro-

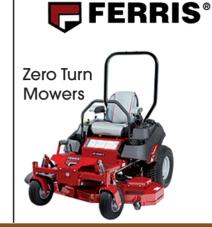
vide the privacy or distraction-free spaces residents may have needed.

Open floor plans have been around for more than 30 years, but they aren't everyone's cup of tea. The pros and cons of this design style merits consideration when renovating or shopping for a home.

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