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These local vendors can help you
make (and maintain) a beautiful home.

This special Home Beautiful guide will be featured on the *Bloom Magazine* website, magbloom.com, for a full year.

Giving Back To Bloomington

Don Weiler and Craig Bailey believe it's important to contribute to the community. That's why Bailey & Weiler Design/Build plays an active role in the biennial Habitat for Humanity Builders Blitz. "Bloomington supports our business, and we need to support it back," Weiler says. "There's a need for affordable housing, and this is a way to directly meet that need. Building is our strength, so we should use it to help others."

Bailey & Weiler and several peer builders planned for the 2018 Builders Blitz for about a year in partnership with their suppliers and subcontractors. "It takes a lot of generosity and commitment to build a house from foundation to completion in 10 days," he explains. "It shows the dedication people have to Habitat and our community."

Every detail of the Builders Blitz is coordinated down to the hour. "There are hundreds of people involved," Weiler says. "We are just one of the builders leading the charge. It feels good to build something tangible that will directly benefit these families for generations."

In addition to its involvement with Habitat, Bailey & Weiler gives back through child-oriented charities, since many of the clients whose homes it designs, builds, and renovates are families. Bailey & Weiler employees sponsor children through Boys & Girls Clubs of Bloomington, serve on the regional leadership team for Riley Children's Foundation, and participate in Real Men Read, a program in which men in the community read to kindergarten classes. "It feels good to do good," Weiler says.



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The transition from indoor to outdoor living spaces requires planning and design. That's where Jonas Carpenter and Salem Willard, owners of Bread & Roses Nursery, really shine. What sets Bread & Roses Nursery apart is its holistic approach. "We want people to feel at home in their front or backyard," Willard says. "We look at the whole area before we make any suggestions."

Sometimes that garden design means fencing off certain areas for privacy or to highlight a beautiful view. Other times, they begin with a hardscape of stone paths or stone walls to give structure and visual interest to the outdoor area. The Bread & Roses team specializes in using edible plants, as well as native trees and shrubs, to make a landscape both useful and beautiful—the very derivation of their company name. They say clients appreciate their edible garden designs, which allow children (and others) to better understand how food is grown.

Carpenter and Willard use organic compost and minerals to build soil health, which often reduces garden maintenance. They also encourage homeowners to build a garden that works with the land. "It's best to observe what goes on in your own yard," Carpenter says. "Where are the sunny areas? Where are the low-lying areas? We try to get people engaged with their environment." And it's that partnership with their clients, along with their holistic approach, that allows Bread & Roses Nursery to bring the beauty of nature to any garden.

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Smoothing the Real Estate Journey

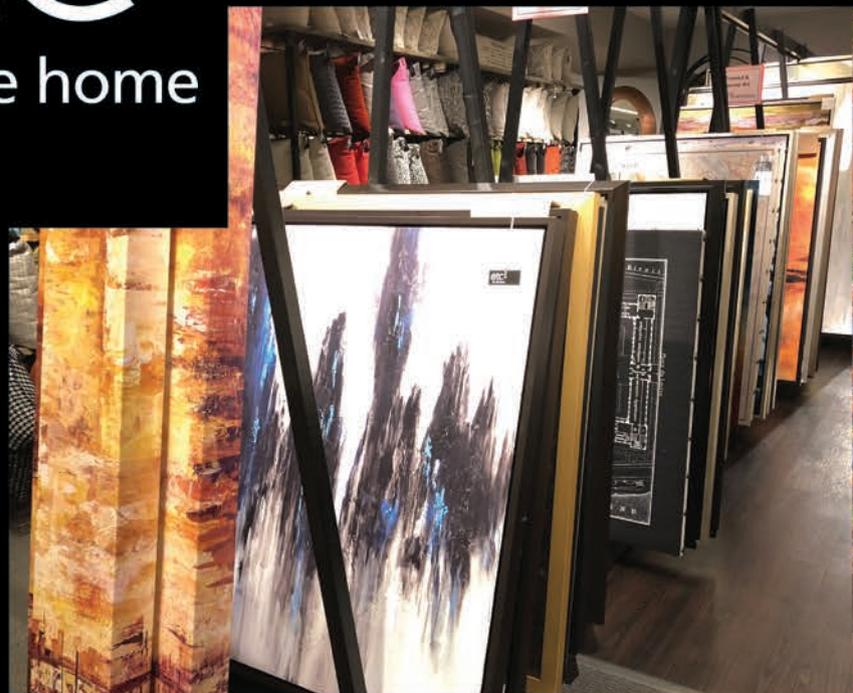
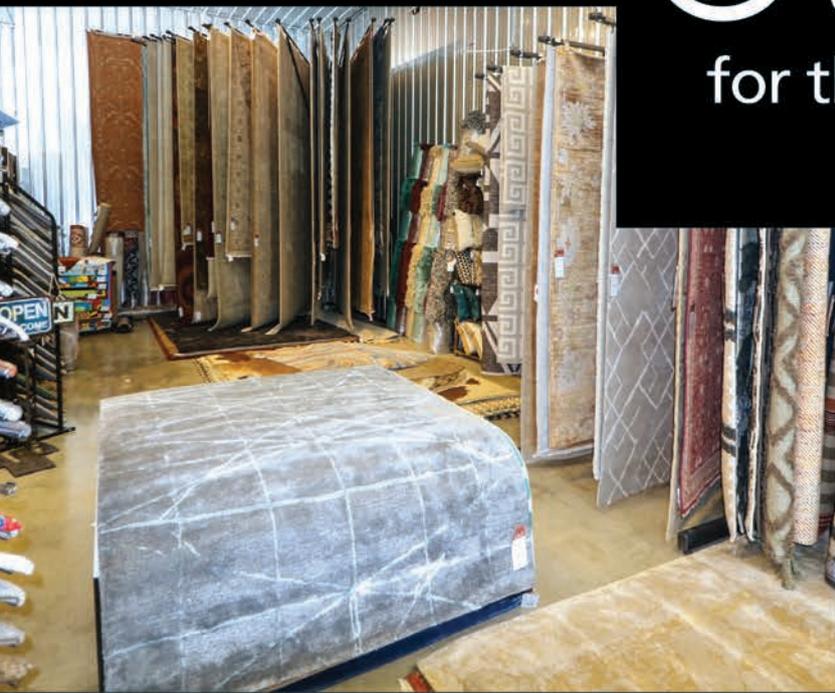
When you think of the term “navigator,” you might envision someone who plans a journey and ensures that hazards are avoided. Realtor Kristi Gibbs of Century 21 Scheetz sees herself as a navigator in the world of real estate. Kristi takes pride in helping clients get through the process of buying or selling a house as smoothly as possible. “Doing the right thing, being there for your buyers, being their advocate—that’s important to me,” Kristi says.

Many former clients feel the same way, noting that Kristi is able to pilot the fine emotional balance of real estate transactions so everyone walks away from the process feeling good. But having a great real estate experience doesn’t just happen. Kristi says there are many details that go into the home-buying process. For example, she recommends buyers meet with a lender and get an idea of what they can afford—and get it in writing—before they start looking for their dream home.

When buyers do find their perfect house, Kristi’s expertise in the competitive Bloomington-area market stands out. “My real work starts when the offer is accepted,” Kristi says, adding that there are many fine points that make a big difference for her clients all the way up until the final closing. One of her strengths in this fast-paced business is her ability to stay calm and upbeat, and she says she is happiest when she hears her clients say they had no idea the process would be so easy.



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Weaving a Tapestry of Community Life

The fabric of every community is woven with those who are a part of it, and Harrell-Fish Inc. (HFI) has added many threads to the Bloomington tapestry. "We want to positively impact our communities by being involved in all the locales we touch," says Nancy Baldwin, public relations coordinator at HFI. "We're involved in many communities in southern Indiana, including Bloomington. Our people and our clients keep us busy, and allow us to give back financially—as well as with our time."

Baldwin says HFI focuses on people in addition to the company's core values of professionalism, safety, quality, and exceptional service. HFI supports many community events, including Taste of Bloomington, Bloomington 100 Men Who Cook, and Lemonade Day Monroe County. It sponsors and has hosted a team for Hoosiers Outrun Cancer, and serves as the distribution location for race T-shirts. HFI also provides scholarships to students at Ivy Tech Community College—Bloomington and many local high schools.

HFI started out small, but continues to grow. And because it is the people of southern Indiana who hire them and depend on their services, Baldwin says they want to be able to make a difference as much as they can to those who have supported them for more than 33 years. "We're privileged to have such amazing clients, as they let us impact so many in multiple communities" Baldwin says. It's a job she treasures because of HFI's commitment to the quality of life in Bloomington and southern Indiana.

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The yoga room at Hoosier Heights. Photo by Martin Boling

Building Projects That Add Value to the Community

For the past 10 years, Loren Wood has structured his residential building and remodeling business around a reputation for quality craftsmanship and attention to detail. As the owner of Loren Wood Builders, he's surrounded himself with 33 full-time employees—including in-house design experts, project managers, carpenters, electricians, and project-management support staff.

"I'm proud of the team I've put together," Wood says. "Something I hear over and over is that we have an amazing crew. We care about the work and are fun to be around, with high-quality, dedicated, professional folks. I think we have a pretty unique team."

Now, after a decade of building that reputation, Wood has begun to expand his focus to take on more commercial projects and further his legacy in the community, while still providing the same dedication to restoration projects, remodeling, reconstruction, and building new homes. "We have built a business and brand around residen-

tial, but that's not all we do," Wood explains.

At this time, about 70 percent of the work done by Loren Wood Builders is concentrated on residential projects, and about 30 percent is spent on commercial jobs, Wood says. After recently working on several downtown-area commercial projects, Wood says he quickly realized how exciting, highly detailed, interesting, and architecturally significant these publicly accessible projects could be.

"You build a custom home for a client and you see the finished project for a moment when you leave, but it's not something that's publicly accessible or a resource for the community," Wood says. "It's been really exciting to work in restaurants and retail spaces that people visit over and over, and it's allowed us to feel like a more tangible part of the community than we are when we're strictly working in private homes."

Wood adds that his company still wants to do the residential work it's always done,

but he's excited and proud to bring that same level of detail, craftsmanship, care, and quality finishing to his company's commercial projects. "To be able to work in a space that is accessible to the community and to add value to the community is a bonus," he says. "As a company, we always want to add value to the community. Creating a space thousands of people will visit feels more like building functional artwork than construction work."

One of those projects is Hoosier Heights, in the former McDoel Baptist Church at 1008 S. Rogers St. "That was transformative to the neighborhood," Wood says. "It was neat to rehabilitate. With the amount of deferred maintenance, someone else might have demolished it, but it was special to go in and restore the wood floors and repair the windows. It's a functional space for the community."

For more information, visit lorenwoodbuilders.com.