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FALL 2022



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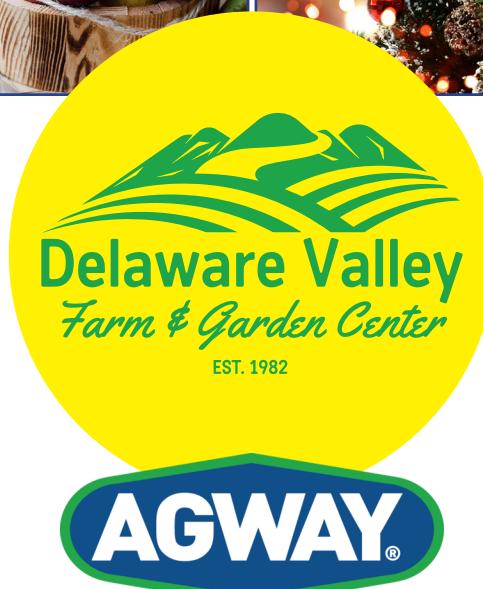
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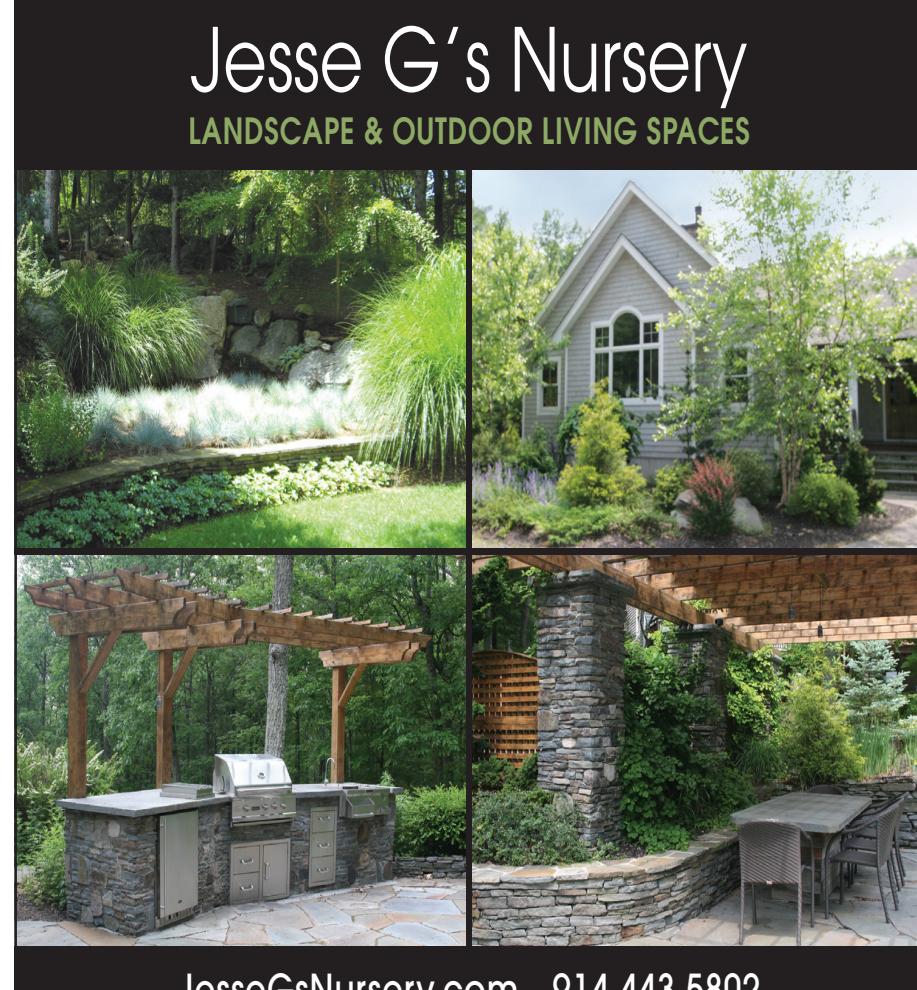


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## On the cover:

Photo by Gabe Zimmer, Catskill Image; used with permission.  
This lovely Narrowsburg home offers both an indoor and outdoor kitchen.



RR photo by Jane Anderson

This apple pie was baked by my youngest last year, when he was studying culinary arts in high school. Now he's a college freshman, studying auto mechanics—but he still loves to cook.

## Editor's letter:

Dear Readers,

After a lively summer and a fantastic fall, it's chilly again. Now's the time to cozy up inside (but do get outside, at least a little bit every day. The fresh air will do you good!). On those days when you just cannot get warm enough, a trick I use—if I have time—is to escape into my kitchen and cook or bake something. Moving around the kitchen takes my mind off how drafty and cold my house tends to be, and the resultant warmth from the stove or oven just toasts me right up.

This issue of Our Country Home spotlights the kitchen with stories that focus on the heart of the home. Jude Waterston contrasts the tiny kitchen in her first apartment to the generous one she's now blessed to use. And her stuffed eggplant recipe is a great way to warm up your own kitchen. To warm up your insides and create family memories, check out Hunter Hill's recipe for lasagna.

Barbara Winfield shares tips on how to refresh the look of your kitchen if you don't have the budget for a total renovation (hint: paint, hardware and lighting are all relatively affordable fixes). Then again, if you do have the means and the motivation for a remodel, Amanda McCormick shares her interview with designer Rachel Acevedo, touching on all the latest trends in kitchen design.

If you want inspiration, check out the story on 21 Aspen Way, a house right here in Narrowsburg, NY, that has not only a killer indoor kitchen, but a fabulous outdoor one as well!

Churning out family favorites to feed your crew, while keeping toasty by the stove: That's probably the best part of the colder seasons. So grab a hot beverage, thumb through this issue, and get cooking!

All the best,  
Jane Anderson



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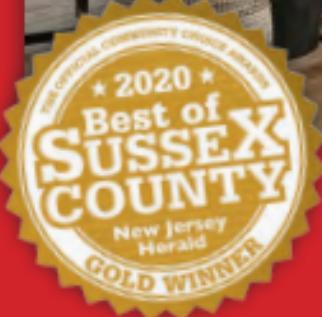
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# Love to cook?



Photography by Gabe Zimmer, Catskill Image

An overview of the sunny and airy kitchen.

*You've got both indoor and outdoor options at this Narrowsburg home*

By JANE ANDERSON

NARROWSBURG, NY — If you love to cook, a well-designed kitchen is the piece de resistance in your home. A gas-fired range; farmhouse sink; modern, roomy fridge; and plenty of space to prep are all must-haves.

But on those hot, steamy summer days—or those autumn afternoons, when the foliage bursts into vibrant color—we might not want to prep and cook inside. At this Catskill Farms cottage, you don't have to choose: it has both indoor and outdoor kitchens.

→ Page 7





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# COOK

~ Page 5

For two decades, Catskill Farms has distilled the quintessential Hudson Valley farmhouse style into hundreds of properties throughout Ulster and Sullivan counties. This two-bedroom, 2.5-bath beauty, built in 2010, follows that ethos with rusticity combined with modern conveniences.

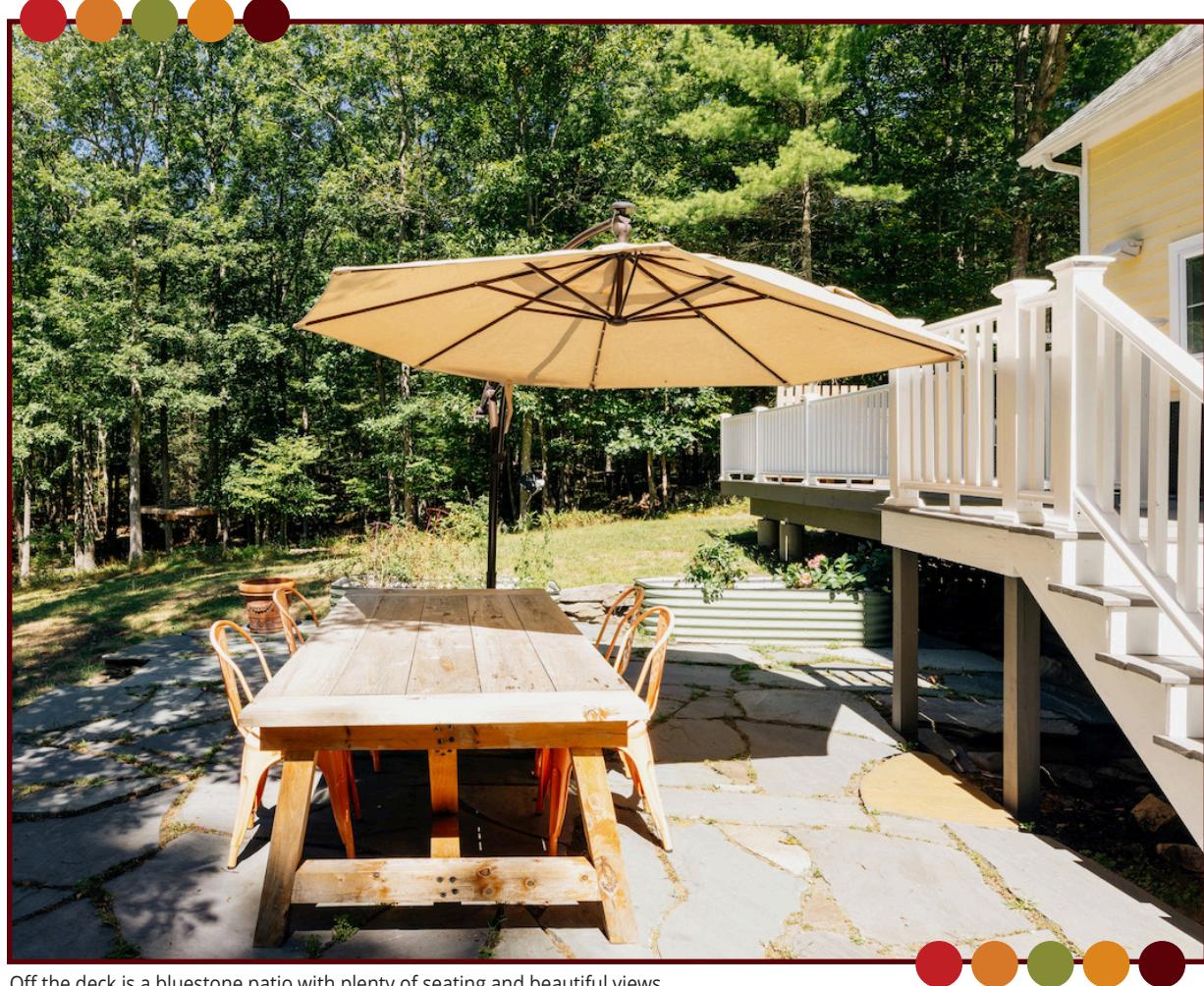
A covered porch spans the width of the cheery, cream-and-white-toned home. Open the hefty wooden front door into a foyer, and you're greeted with the beauty of striking navy/white wallpaper and a knotty hardwood floor.

Bear right to head into the 11-foot-by-14-foot kitchen. A white wood-plank ceiling soars overhead, anchored by black wood beams. The L-shaped workspace includes white lower cabinets, one set of corner upper cabinets and a large pantry cabinet. A double, aproned farmhouse sink sits below a sunny window. Tan granite covers the countertops, and complementary tile forms the backsplash. There's a steel chef's range and a stainless-steel fridge and dishwasher. The kitchen is roomy enough for a breakfast table and chairs.

Head back through the foyer into the living room, which is amazingly sunny thanks to big windows on nearly every wall. A stone, floor-to-ceiling fireplace anchors this room, which—in addition to a roomy seating area—has space for a full-size dining set on one end.

Climb the wood-and-cable staircase to the second floor. The guest room is spacious, with a curved ceiling and an interesting sliding barn door overlooking the stairwell. The primary bedroom is adjacent, and has the same high, curved ceiling and wood floors as the guest room. The bedrooms share a beautiful bathroom with a big white tub

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Off the deck is a bluestone patio with plenty of seating and beautiful views.



The foyer offers striking navy/white wallpaper and a knotty hardwood floor.

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# COOK

~ Page 7

and twin pedestal sinks.

The finished walk-out basement offers 800 square feet of flex space. It has two big laminate-floored rooms, each with a barn-door closet, and a modern bathroom with white tile floors and a big walk-in shower.

The rear deck of the house wraps around the side of the house and includes a wood-fired hot tub for cold winter nights. Off the deck is a bluestone patio with an outdoor kitchen contained within a wall of stone. Keep some brews in the mini-fridge while you flip steaks on the gas grill, create a pizza in the oven, or smoke some brisket in the enclosed Big Green Egg smoker.

The 1,400-square-foot house sits on a dead-end street. The property totals 6.75 acres with woods, gardens and views, just a few miles from the center of Narrowsburg.



The indoor kitchen is large enough to comfortably seat family or friends at the breakfast table.



A beautiful Catskill Farms home at 21 Aspen Way in Narrowsburg.



A closer look at the kitchen cabinets.

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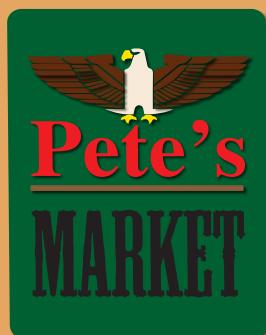
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# Design ideas to refresh your kitchen

By BARBARA WINFIELD

The simplest changes can refresh any kitchen without the hassle of a major remodel. Paint, tiles, wallpaper and other interesting accents can add a new look to any dated kitchen. The best part is that you can do it on a simple budget.

## Paint

There is nothing wrong with painting over wood. Paint will give new life to old cabinets and allow you to choose the color and finish you want at a fraction of the cost of refinishing or replacing old cabinets.

## Replace old items

Rather than redo the entire kitchen, consider replacing your old sink with a new farmhouse style or a shiny stainless-steel sink, or update your sink with a stylish new faucet.

## Hardware

One of the easiest ways to freshen up a kitchen is to add new knobs and pulls. There is a large selection available, ranging from glass, metal and resin to wood and stone. You can also mix and match different materials and styles to create a custom look. Check out artists that offer a different look—and make sure the knobs are comfortable and match the scale of your cabinets.

## Molding

Crown molding can add an architectural feature to an otherwise plain kitchen. Use crown molding along the ceiling line, or install a chair rail three feet up the wall. You can also add decorative molding around the windows and doors to add detail and interest to the room.



Public domain photo by Tomwsulcer, via Wikimedia Commons

There are dozens of cabinet hardware styles from which to choose.

## Lighting

Here's another way to spruce up your existing kitchen: add new lighting and light fixtures. Halogen lamps are an excellent way to bounce light off the ceiling for indirect lighting—add a dimmer so you can turn them down for a subtler look.

For task and accent lighting, you can install lighting under cabinets—in many cases, there is no wiring involved.

Don't be afraid to use lamps and chandeliers in the kitchen; decorative fixtures will not only add light, but can be a simple way to enhance the appearance of the room.

## Islands

Adding an island can not only improve the look of a room, but also add storage and performance to the workspace.

Islands are very flexible design elements; they come in various sizes and don't have to match the installed cabinets. They can be attached to the floor or be freestanding. For an example of the latter: antique farm tables make great islands.

## Mixed cabinetry and furnishings

No one ever said that kitchen cabinets have to match. If you want a more personal look, shop around salvage yards, antique stores, flea markets and online for furnishings like hutches, baker's racks, buffets, antique tables and china cabinets that you can add to your kitchen. Adding these items can be an easy way to create a warm, comfortable ambiance in the room when mixed with standard built-in kitchen cabinets.

Reuse as many cabinets as you can, and spruce them up by refacing or replacing the doors and drawer fronts. You can also replace only the top cabinets and paint the bottom cabinets a different color.

## Counters

The mix-and-match idea is not limited to cabinetry; it can also be applied to countertop materials. You can save money and create a custom look by using laminate on the counters and granite for the island. Mix butcher block with solid surfacing or laminate counters and concrete for the island. You can also use decorative tile for the backsplash and plain tile for counters, with a matching solid surfacing material for the island.

## Flooring

Vinyl tile or sheet vinyl is an inexpensive way to enhance a kitchen floor. There is an abundance of styles, colors and price ranges to choose from. A checkerboard pattern made of solid black-and-white vinyl tiles can add drama to any size of kitchen. Vinyl sheet flooring is also available in faux-stone designs that can create the look of granite, stone or marble for a bargain price.

Laminate is another way to create a rich look at penny prices. Laminate comes in wood looks as well as colors and is perfect for kitchen cleanup and dampness.

Add color and pattern to a plain floor with washable area rugs. Rugs can be changed several times a year to create a new look according to the season.



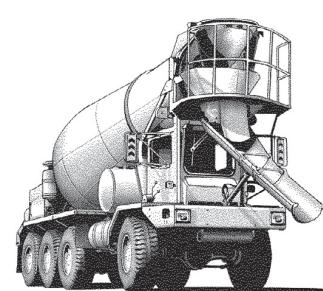
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# Finding extra storage space in your kitchen



Photo by Charlotte May: [www.pexels.com/photo/part-of-kitchen-with-utensils-5825725/](https://www.pexels.com/photo/part-of-kitchen-with-utensils-5825725/)

**Place** open shelving around the perimeter of the kitchen, where the ceiling and wall meet, to store casseroles and decorative containers.

**Hang** a rack for glassware over the kitchen island.

**Divide** the kitchen and living room with a half-wall that has built-in storage on one side.

**Hang** a single rail rack on one wall to hold pots and pans.

**Cover** a wall with pegboard to hold pots and utensils. Paint the board in an accent color.

**Add** shallow racks to the inside of cabinet doors to hold flat items like cookie trays.

**Hang** shallow plastic-coated wire shelving inside cabinet doors for spice jars.

**Install** an appliance garage between the upper kitchen cabinets and the counter space.

**Add** glass shelves across a window to hold small pots of herbs.

**Install** a pop-out storage drawer in front of the sink to hold sponges.

**Hang** a plate rack on the wall to display colorful dishes.

**Include** a fold-down table at the end of a counter to provide extra surface space when needed.



Photo by Maria Orlova: [www.pexels.com/photo/kitchen-interior-with-furniture-and-shelves-in-cafe-4917101/](https://www.pexels.com/photo/kitchen-interior-with-furniture-and-shelves-in-cafe-4917101/)



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# Contrasting kitchens

## *From dismal to delightful*

By JUDE WATERSTON

In 1976, when I was liberating myself from my parent's home and hunting for an apartment in Greenwich Village, I found the choices dismal. Some buildings, particularly those on MacDougal Street, a block from Washington Square Park, had only a bathroom out in the hallway, shared by all the tenants on that floor. Others had shower stalls or bathtubs in the kitchen and the only sink in the apartment was in that room, as well. A lone toilet sat in a closet.

One afternoon, defeated and dejected, I slipped into a bar on Sullivan Street for a drink. A friend walked in, someone I knew from my favorite drinking hole a few blocks away.

We chatted, and he mentioned he was the superintendent of the building directly across the street from where we sat. "I just finished painting a studio there. I think I can get it for you," he said.

We went up to look at it together. The building, in fact, the whole complex, was composed solely of studios, minute spaces a little more than 100 square feet each. There was one little closet for clothes and a tiny bathroom with a tub with a shower nozzle, a sink and a toilet. The main room served as a bedroom, living room, kitchen and dining room. The rent was \$180 a month. I grabbed it.

The "kitchen" was the biggest obstacle to overcome or, at least, to make functional. Lined up against one wall was a sink; under it was a cupboard containing the pipes, but with enough room for such things as cleaning products. There were three small wall cabinets above it; there was a refurbished stove, circa 1930; and a small Formica counter, under which was a refrigerator.

After I placed a dish rack on the counter, I was left with an area roughly 8 inches by 11 inches, for a crock filled with cooking utensils and my workspace for prepping food.

The fridge was ancient, and the door was made of solid metal. The only freezer space was an open compartment in which two ice cube trays snugly fit. So much for enjoying a pint of ice cream in my apartment.

My brother, a dentist professionally, was also an excellent and inventive woodworker. Eventually, he made me a large spice rack, which he affixed to a space on the wall. He also constructed a floor-to-ceiling cabinet, with shelves reaching almost to the ceiling; the bottom half was a large cupboard.

This piece of furniture was a lifesaver. It allowed me to house all kinds of containers of pasta and grains, vitamins, sugar and flour, and even a large food processor and blender. It was placed across from the stove, so I had about two feet of space between it and where I did my cooking.

I lived in that apartment, under those circumstances, for 40 years.

As you might imagine, when we first started renting our house in 1996, I walked

into the kitchen and immediately felt ecstatic. It was a large, more-than-ample room with a full-sized (though smaller than usual) refrigerator, a double sink, floor and wall cabinets, and a nice-sized stove. Unfortunately, the stove was electric, which I abhor, but eventually the owners replaced it with a gas stove when the first one went kaput.

There was an ancient and decrepit dishwasher as well, but since neither Janet nor I had ever had a dishwasher and were used to washing our plates, bowls and glasses by hand, I took to using it as another storage cabinet, filled with boxes of crackers and bottles of unopened condiments.

The house had been built on a tight budget, and all of the cabinets in the kitchen were not only an unattractive shade of muddy brown, but were built of faux wood. They were crappy, and over time began to deteriorate and break away from the walls. The floor was an equally ugly style of linoleum, and we hoped that the longer we had the house the more we could do to change the original fixings.

Still, I was thrilled to have so much space to work in, and we even bought a sturdy wooden, marble-topped island to put in the middle of the room, giving me even more work space.

In 2004, the owners of the abode decided to move to the south, and offered to sell us the house without even putting it on the market. We have owned it since then, and moved into it full-time a little over five years ago.

Over time, little by little, we renovated the kitchen. We had the dishwasher removed, and replaced it and all of the cabinets in the room with beautiful, pristine white cabinets with polished brushed chrome knobs.

We replaced the refrigerator twice, and when the current one was delivered, I wondered if it was possible to fall in love with an appliance. That's how I felt as I filled the two large crisper drawers with fruits and vegetables, and put dozens of bottles of condiments in the two doors; filled the large freezer with packages of meat, dumplings, chicken and other foods; and christened a shallow drawer the width of the fridge the "cheese drawer." "Don't put anything but cheese in there," I solemnly instructed Janet. "I understand," she assured me.

We replaced the oven with a larger, heavy-duty one and now the broiler is in the oven. Instead, there is a drawer on the bottom, where I keep baking and roasting pans. For a few extra bucks, we purchased a stove-top grill that can replace the middle grate, and I use it often to cook chops and steaks.

We put in new countertops and replaced the old linoleum on the floor with one that looks perfect with the grey-and-white color scheme of the kitchen. And we had shelving installed and a cabinet built with Page 16



RR photos by Jude Waterston

Dishes on shelves in kitchen.



Cookbook cabinet and shelves for serving dishes.

## CONTRASTING - Page 15

both open shelves and a large cupboard underneath. It's perfect for displaying our colorful vintage tableware.

Another handmade cabinet houses dozens of bowls, serving dishes and some of my cookbooks behind glass doors. The top is perfect for a cooking scale and more bowls filled with ripening avocados, tomatoes and mangoes, plus a beautiful two-tiered serving dish decorated with hand-painted birds, given to us as a housewarming gift.

The kitchen is my domain. I allow Janet to walk through it and to wash the dishes after our meals, but it is the room in our house in which I feel most at home. I spend hours there daily and revel in the fact that after all these years I ended up with the kind of kitchen I'd one day hoped to have. It's mine, all mine!



Kitchen shelving and spice rack, New York City.



The completed stuffed eggplants.

## Stuffed eggplant

Serves 4

This is a favorite new recipe I concocted. Eggplants are available year-round, but they are sold at the farmers' market in Callicoon, and I would guess at other farmers' markets, as well. Choose ones with smooth, shiny skins and no blemishes.

1 1/2 cups marinara sauce  
1 medium eggplant, trimmed of its top leaves, then cut in half length-wise  
1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 teaspoon dried oregano  
Salt and freshly ground pepper  
2 cloves garlic, finely minced  
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved (or 1 cup chopped tomato)  
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese  
1/2 cup grated Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese  
1 large egg, beaten  
1/4 cup Italian bread crumbs



Freshly sliced basil, for garnish (optional)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Spread the marinara sauce on the bottom of a baking dish large enough to fit the two eggplant halves, laid side-by-side.

Hollow out each eggplant half, leaving a 1/2-inch border on the outside, until you have two eggplant "boats."

Chop the removed eggplant into a medium dice.

In a medium-sized skillet, add the olive oil and then the onions. Cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add the chopped eggplant and season with oregano, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, until golden and tender, 4 minutes. Add the minced garlic and cook for another minute.

Transfer the mixture to a medium-sized bowl. Add the chopped tomatoes, 1 cup of mozzarella and 1/4 cup grated cheese.

Lay the scooped-out eggplant halves in the baking dish, and scoop the mixture evenly into the eggplants. Top with the remaining cheeses and the breadcrumbs. Bake for 50 minutes until the cheese is golden and the eggplants have softened.

Broil for about 3 minutes to crisp the tops.

Garnish with basil, if using, and serve immediately.

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## THE FOOD OUT HERE

# Lasagna by Dad

By HUNTER HILL

It's October, and all anyone thinks about is scary food. Food that looks scary, food that sounds scary, and food that might be scary to prepare.

As it turns out, there's something scarier than all that, and that's a dad left to his own devices in the kitchen while mom's away on business.

Let me set the scene for you.

It was a dark and not-so-stormy night. In fact, it seemed to be pretty fair weather outside. However, inside was a more tumultuous environment. As I juggled a 10-month-old in one hand, feeding him cottage cheese and milk in between cries, I attempted to also focus on a conversation initiated by my three-year-old in the next room. He was asking/demanding answers about the cartoon he was watching.

As I pushed some of the mess off the counter and attempted to clean a dish or two, I considered what options I had to prepare dinner for the boys. In that moment, I decided two things. First, I was going to attempt to make lasagna, even though I had never made it by myself before. Second, I was going to make a few hot dogs to tide my lovely urchins over, since I was pretty sure it takes about three hours to make lasagna.

If the decision to make lasagna wasn't enough, at the late hour and in the midst of toddler turmoil, I made another decision that was perhaps equally scary. That was to ignore the many lasagna recipes available to me via the internet and the cookbooks we have on hand.

That's right, never made a lasagna before, but I was going to take a stab at it without true directions to follow.

If you're an optimist like me, you'll understand the supposed advantage was that if you have no clear target, how can you say you missed if something were to go awry?

So with my positive attitude, uncertain decision-making skills and naïveté, I began

what was to be a scary take on lasagna by a dad. I can feel the judgment of all pasta lovers upon me even as a write this.

Well, to properly earn the scowls and deepen the horror, I will share my favorite and most abhorrent hack right off the bat: I used oven-ready pasta. I know the sacrilege, but guys, lemme tell ya, why cook pasta when you don't have to?

So there I was with my plug-and-play ingredients, about to blaspheme the entire country of Italy, when I suddenly realized I was out of mozzarella cheese. But guess what I did have? Cheese sticks. You heard right, the rejects of my son's snack time were about to make a debut as the melting face of a lasagna that only Dr. Frankenstein could love.

All I knew about lasagna was that you needed two major components besides the pasta layers—a meat sauce and a cheese filling. My wife always throws spinach into her lasagna, so I did too, just to impress her with my usage of a green ingredient. If my kids were any older, perhaps they would see that as the scary part, but honestly you don't see it by itself, so it's a tasty way to sneak in some good veggies.

Once I had my meat sauce and cheese filling made, I assembled and baked, making sure to check as the cheese sticks melted on the surface. While I checked plenty of times in that first hour, I forgot for a time after that, and ended up with a slightly overcooked dish of lasagna.

The way out here, we don't always cook like Ree Drummond, the Pioneer Woman, with her fancy snacks and perfect execution, but even a scary monster of a lasagna, fashioned by a crazy sleep-deprived dad, can do the job when it comes to getting food in bellies. To be honest, we loved it, and the flavor overshadowed the flaws. So to my fellow dads out there: take a crack at it, and when anybody says something, refer them to the quack who stumbled his way through this recipe in the first place.



The cheesy stuff and the beefy stuff.



RR photos by Hunter Hill

A dad's gotta do what a dad's gotta do.

## Lasagna by Dad

*Recipe courtesy of Hunter Hill*

- 1/2 onion, diced
- Equal amounts of picnic or bell peppers, diced, to taste
- 1 pound ground beef
- 16-ounce jar tomato sauce
- 32 ounces ricotta cheese
- 2 cups Parmesan cheese
- 1 egg
- Oregano
- Basil
- Salt and pepper
- Spinach, to taste
- Oven-ready lasagna noodles
- Mozzarella cheese sticks (optional, can be substituted with actual mozzarella cheese), to taste

**The beefy stuff**—every dad needs muscle, and protein builds muscle! Start the meat sauce mixture by dicing your onion and peppers, and sauté them in some oil. It helps to use a saucepan with high sides.

Once the veggies begin to sweat, add a pound or so of beef, and toss to brown evenly. The beef should crumble nicely and absorb the juices from the sautéed veggies.

Once fully cooked, add tomato sauce. Turn over to fully combine, and set

aside for final construction.

**The cheesy stuff**—Every dad is at least a little cheesy, so to make the cheese filling, start with the ricotta, then add the parmesan cheese and the egg. Add a hearty sprinkling of oregano, dried basil, salt and pepper. Then heat up some chopped spinach; it doesn't need to be fully cooked before mixing in. Mix all this thoroughly, then set aside for final construction.

**Final construction**—Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit and get ready to build. Yes, men, the time to construct is upon us. Using a 13-inch-by-9-inch glass or tin pan, start building the layers of your lasagna. Start with the meat sauce, and follow with a layer of oven-ready noodles, then the cheese filling. Repeat, covering the entire surface each time, until your sauce and filling are gone. Finally, cover with chopped-up mozzarella, and cover pan with tin foil before baking for 50 minutes.

Check occasionally and adjust cook time to doneness. The cheese on top should appear melted but not scorched.

Remove from oven, let cool to eating temperature and enjoy.

Cheat by making some dad-level garlic toast, i.e. regular toast with butter and garlic powder on it. Kids dig it, although mom may cringe.



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# Kitchen trends

An interview with designer Rachel Acevedo

By AMANDA MCCORMICK

The kitchen is often thought of as the heart of the home. It's a multifunctional space that hosts a full spectrum of experiences, from quiet morning coffee and contemplation to boisterous gatherings and emphatic conversations; it nourishes our feelings of connection and belonging, as well as our bellies and bodies.

It's no wonder that when it comes to renovating, the kitchen can feel like a huge undertaking.

Rachel Acevedo of Rachel Acevedo Design shared some top trends in kitchen remodeling that will help even the smallest investment yield an impactful return.

## Mixed metal hardware

"It doesn't have to be all or nothing!" Acevedo said. At the base level, she suggests adding interesting hardware to pre-existing cabinetry. As a bonus, matching everything is out, and varying the finish is in, so feel free to experiment with a blend of different metals—brass, chrome, copper, stainless steel—for the faucet, light fixtures, and cabinet handles to make the space immediately more visually interesting.

## Neutral palette

Painting pre-existing cabinetry is another affordable way to completely transform the kitchen space. Acevedo suggests sticking with a neutral palette on larger pieces like cabinetry, and then adding smaller pops of color and accents with countertop appliances and hand towels, for example—they're easier to change with the seasons or style trends.

"Just make sure whatever colors you choose complement the other colors in your home," Acevedo said. "All rooms should nod to each other."

## Deep apron sink

The kitchen sink needs to be functional, but switching out the conventional two-sided metal one for a deep porcelain apron sink helps make more of an aesthetic statement. Metal can feel industrial and cold, and seeing a farmhouse-style sink even in a non-farmhouse-style kitchen can feel more inviting and homey.

## Bring the eye up

"Bringing the eye up" is a common mantra in the design world to make ceilings appear taller and spaces larger. The same holds true in the kitchen. Acevedo shared two different ways you can apply this to your own space.

First, take the cabinets all the way up to the ceiling.

→ Page 21



Fresh air and natural light added with these beautiful French casement push-out windows.

Rachel Acevedo Design original



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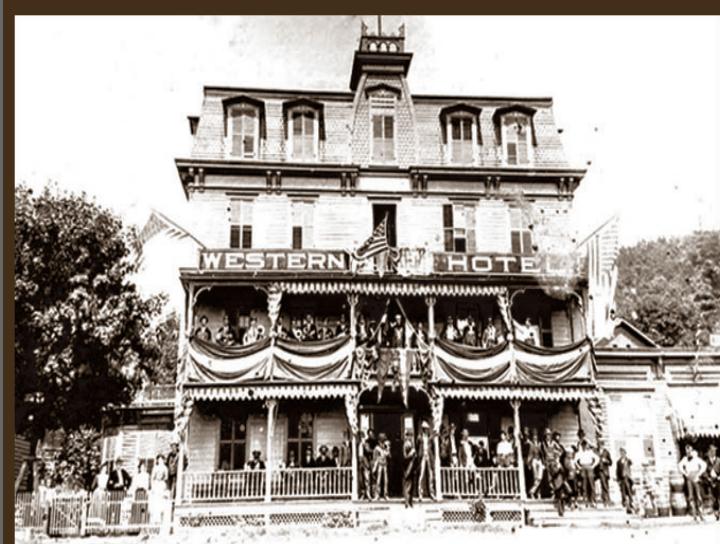
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# TRENDS

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Second, a newer trend is to extend the stone slab countertop all the way up the walls as a matching backsplash. "Be sure to extend it all the way up to the ceiling behind the stove hood," she said. These techniques, paired together, give the illusion of increased visual space.

## Storage

There is so much going on in the kitchen—so many appliances, tools and utensils—that it can very easily feel cluttered. This creates underlying stress that could spill over into other aspects of home and life.

There are three trends in storage that can help quell the issue.

First, think about adding a kitchen island. They are super functional, creating extra seating, extra prep space, plus an island can act as a contrasting statement piece to the neutral cabinets. Acevedo suggested a warm wood tone with different hardware from that on the cabinets.

Second, if you plan to redo your cabinets, consider creating an appliance cabinet or appliance garage. Explore conventional doors, pocket doors, or even doors that slide, as a garage door does.

Either way, this gives potentially unsightly countertop appliances a home, and gives your eyes a rest. The kitchen looks much cleaner with most things hidden away.

Third, rather than having cabinet doors that sit on top of the frame, flush cabinet panels—where the doors and drawers are inset—modernize the old-world charm of Shaker panels and update them to be sleek and clean.

## Lighting

Last but not least, Acevedo covered some important tips about lighting.

Because the kitchen is a workspace, it needs ample lighting. Natural light is always best, and can be accommodated by adding taller French casement push-out windows, which are easier to access for every height, or by using pendants over an island or breakfast bar.

For shorter ceilings, add recessed lighting to open up another inch or two of space.

And as a general rule, lighting in the kitchen should be white, to evoke a sense of cleanliness, make the space feel larger, and to enable you to see the tasks at hand.

"Warm amber light is for ambiance," Acevedo said. "Save that for pendants and other rooms of the house."

She believes that small changes can still have a huge impact, changing the way you feel when you walk into a space. "When there is intentionality behind our environment, we can choose how we want to feel and can make our environment help us get there," Acevedo said. "The right environment can transform your mindset and your life."

*Rachel Acevedo of Hawley-based Rachel Acevedo Design works with clients within the Wayne, Pike and Sullivan counties as well as in the New York City metro area. She also serves e-design clients across the U.S. and Canada. For more information, visit rachelacevedodesign.com.*



Rachel Acevedo Design original

This is a great example of the implementation of many trends. You'll notice the neutral color palette with interesting hardware, the extension of both the counter stone slab and cabinets all the way up to the ceiling, an accent kitchen island, an appliance cabinet with pocket doors, and flush cabinet and drawer panels.

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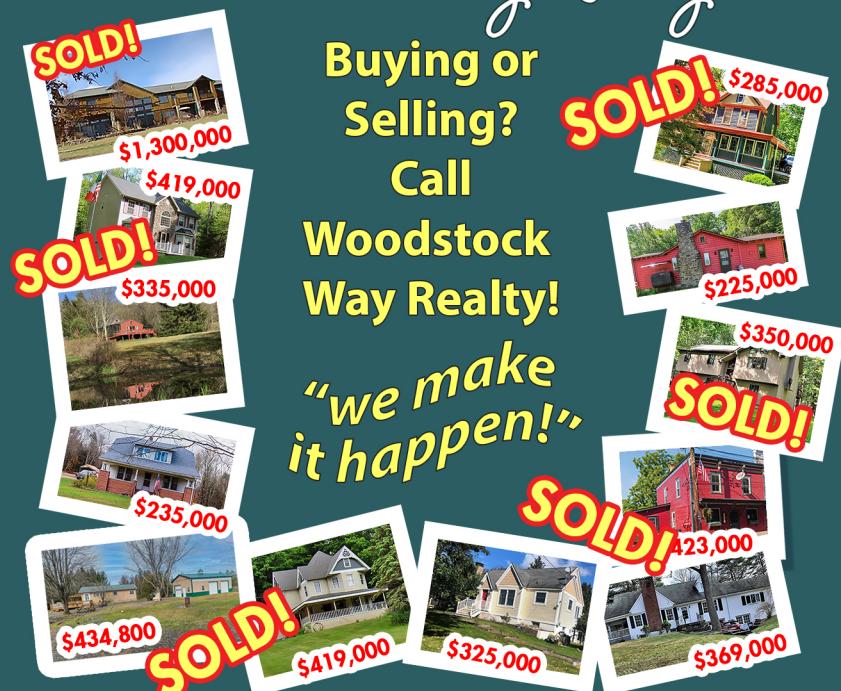
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# Fill your home with comforting color



Photo courtesy of HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams

The Sherwin Williams Color Collection of the Year borrows the colors of the past to evoke comfort now.

(Family Features) In the world of design, what's old inevitably becomes new again, and a similar pattern is inspiring today's on-trend color palettes for home decor. The latest styles reflect reviving and comforting colors influenced by heritage and romance, contributing to a look that is both familiar and individualistic.

Maybe you are living the romance of rural lifestyles, prefer the comfort of home, or are steeped in nostalgia for distant times. Some of today's most beloved design aesthetics celebrate the past, present and future, and bring balance, hope and comfort for you and your family to embrace.

## Timeless color

Using color to evoke feelings and emotions is hardly new. But now you can combine a carefully curated color palette with other design elements, allowing you to create a look that pays homage to the past while it breathes new life into your living space.

Reimagining classic, familiar color tones allows you to achieve a design motif that is equal parts reminiscent and refreshing.

"The Vintage Homestead Color Collection offers an effortless look that reveals the importance of being hopeful

to find stability and balance," said Ashley Banbury, senior color designer at HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams. "Our 2023 Color Collection of the Year revives elements from the past that are perfectly paired with vintage, comfortable and classic colors."

## Blending past and present

Striking a balance between old and new can take many forms, as these styles show.

**Heritage Revival:** An interest in the past is evident in design trends like an appreciation for antiques and vintage

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## COLOR

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elements, such as oversized furniture and traditional shapes. To capture this style, your design should focus on contrasting old and new for a mix-and-match look.

A cohesive color scheme can allow the various elements to stand on their own while working in harmony for an intentional design. For example, the HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams 2023 Color Collection of the Year includes a combination of familiar tones that have been curated by design professionals. The designers borrowed color and concepts from the past, evoking a hopeful future and a sense of belonging.

Hues like Poetry Plum and Hot Cocoa convey warmth and depth, while moderate shades like Restrained Gold and Glamour offer fresh ways to incorporate mid-range neutrals. Meanwhile, soft tones like Natural Linen and Cool Beige offer subtle color for lighter, brighter spaces.

**Mixing and matching of eras:** A new take on retro design is emerging, blending eras and bringing together old and new furnishings. To get this look and to design for longevity, incorporate pieces that are ambiguous in era and stand the test of time.

**Vintage Homestead:** Reviving design elements from the past with mixed patterns, classic shapes and vintage decor adds up to comfortable and comforting design. With this trend, prints and patterns encompass a range of styles, reinforcing how interiors connect to fashion. Mixing classic elegance with sleek vintage shapes is refining the concept of polished comfort. To achieve the look, curate pieces in heritage shapes and patterns, along with retro accents. Be sure to incorporate vintage lighting and glass, as well.

A versatile color choice like Darkroom, the 2023 Color of the Year from HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams, is an alluring shade that is classic enough for heritage interiors but also modernly retro for a throwback-inspired aesthetic. It's a neutral perfect for creating an eclectic yet modern look inside and out.

Get inspired to combine the past with the present for a comforting design that's all your own at hgtvhomebysherwinwilliams.com. You can browse the colors yourself at Honesdale's Sherwin-Williams Paint Store, 250 Grandview Ave., 570/253-0750.

*Content provided by HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams.*



The artful use of neutrals can create a room that is both elegant and comfortable.



Photos courtesy of HGTV Home by Sherwin-Williams

A clever use of color adds up to comfortable and comforting design in Sherwin Williams' Color Collection of the Year.

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**There is a reason why Donna Geba has a solid reputation in Glen Spey as being the best realtor in the area. After the first buyer fell through, Donna remained optimistic and positive, and put our worries at ease. She went over and beyond on the day of the closing to make sure that the sale would go through.**

**Dealing with Donna was like working with an old friend. She was readily available, always positive, friendly, optimistic, helpful, and very professional. Donna made what could have been an incredibly stressful experience that much easier. Her knowledge and experience were paramount, and we would recommend her to anyone, especially anyone who needs to sell a property under difficult conditions.**

**I was astonished by how much effort and enthusiasm Judy put into sale. This is just a little cottage but she prepared it for sale like it was a million dollar mansion. It was a big plus that she was versed in modern technologies. This allowed her, for example, to send us electronic documents that greatly expedited the signing of things. She also created a 3D virtual tour of the house for prospective buyers. Judy responded immediately to our questions and concerns and was always on top of ensuring we were on track for the sale. We received offers almost immediately, but Judy wisely recommended that we hold for an offer that was well above the asking price and nearly double the appraised value of the...**

**If you give Nancy Pitcher an explanation of what you want. She will fit you to a T with what you want. She was outstanding in her inventory knowledge and worked well with lawyers to cover our investment. She was top notch and made our transition across state lines easy to follow through with**

**It was a long time between agreed price and contracts and I would've torn my hair out but beth stayed on top of it and it happened just as she said. She's a pro**

**Beth Germann showed much respect for my family and I. Her knowledge of the area and houses was on point. She was patient as we looked at MANY houses. I would recommend Beth Germann to anybody.**

**Once we met Dennis, he made sure to understand exactly what we were looking for and helped us out immensely.**

**Dennis was able to view the property for us and provide photos before we were able to view it. He asked the seller any questions we had and was communicative of every aspect relating to offer, process, and closing**

**Jennie Waligroski totally understood our specific needs and requirements right from the start. Jennie is the ultimate real estate professional. Competent, thorough, understanding, and responsive -- an awesome ally and aside from all that just plain nice!! We couldn't have asked for a better partner to get us through one of life's bigger decisions. We are now happily settling into our "best life" in no small part due to her awesome professionalism.**

**Lorraine Smith was fantastic throughout the process. Lorraine Smith was accessible attentive and accommodating, she made me feel like I was her only client and made the process very easy and enjoyable. I would absolutely recommend Lorraine Smith for any real estate sales or purchases and I will only use her in any of my future real estate transactions.**

**Purchasing a home was a stressful prospect for my family and I and we are so grateful to Glenda for helping us find our forever home. She exceeded our expectations throughout the whole journey, always bringing additional insights and knowledge to the process. We were confident that we were being represented by someone who was advocating for us and took the time and exerted the effort to truly understand what we were looking for. At certain points we were looking at other areas, and therefore other agents, but none of them exhibited the tenacity she did and the genuine care she had in us finding our home.**

**Lisa is the best! She's great to work with on a personal and professional level. She is extremely knowledgeable about real estate and the nuances of selling your home. Always easy to get a hold of. She was extremely helpful, professional and worked well under the stress of dealing with multiple sets of tenants some being more difficult than others. I truly could not have sold my house without her help experience and expertise. Thank you again**

**Kathleen Mauro is an exceptional Agent/Broker and even more important, an exceptional woman. My home sale was not as easy as I had assumed it would be, but she was available and helping me through it all. Kind and courteous, but firm and knowledgeable too. Thank you Kathleen for all you did.**

**Jason C. Bailey understood my needs and stuck by me through thick and thin - 2 1/2 years of looking during the crazy Covid epidemic! He is pointed out the bad as well as the good in all the houses we explored, and had a good handle on how much money would be needed to fix the "bad".**

**It was a pleasure working with Gabor. He is a polite, friendly, and knowledgeable realtor. I would highly recommend him for any future real estate needs.**

**Beth was responsive, understanding, and kind. I have and will continue recommending Beth to my friends and family because of her professionalism and knowledge.**

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**Having worked with other agents in the past, I can state from experience that Donna is a cut above the rest and has the highest standards of customer service. Her experience and professionalism resulted in obtaining multiple quality offers above asking price in a short period of time and a flawless transaction.**

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