By B. Scott Mohr

While autumn is most often associated with football games, the World Series, colorful leaves, brisk evenings, bonfires and trick-ortreaters, it's the perfect time to embark upon that home improvement project that you have been putting off.

If hesitant to undertake such an endeavor because your know-how may be in the "lacking department," there's no need to fret because area companies are eager to offer their expertise.

Whether it's a deck, a patio, a room addition or a water garden that you're interested in, one phone call can get the ball rolling. But you'll want to call several contractors for pricing and references before hiring anyone. Regardless of whom you choose from the following professionals, their craftsmanship should ensure a job well done

Cleaning and sales of blinds

Indy Shades (317-888-2334), established more than 25 years ago

by Steve Cambridge, sells Hunter Douglas and Lafayette Interior Fashion blinds and is known for its expertise in the ultrasonic cleaning of venetian, vertical and soft shades.

"This process will make your window treatments look brand new, said Cambridge, whose shop is located at 360 Market Plaza, Suite 1, Greenwood. "With our specially formulated detergents, we also lubricate the gears and protect the



Indy Shades owner Steve Cambridge with his wife, Michele.

cords. We can accommodate quick turnaround times, and we are very reasonable."

Why ultrasonics?

With ultrasound, the blinds are thoroughly and inexpensively cleaned with high-frequency sound waves, which create millions of tiny bubbles than implode and scour the surface.

Need a new look?



Allure Transitional Shades by Lafayette Interior Fashions

Or shades in the office?



Hunter Douglas Designer Screen Shade in the Ashton 10 percent Fabric Collection

THIRD-GENERATION COMPANY

Upholstering and interior decorating

One might be misled by the name of Shelby Upholstering & Interiors, 3136 W. 16th St. (317-631-8911), as the company offers an array of services besides upholstering.

Started in 1932 by Paul Quass, the business has remained in the family for than 85 years and is also known for making custom furniture, interior design work, antique restoring, wood refinishing, custom window treatments, interior painting and wallpaper and carpet sales and installation.

The third-generation company is now owned by the father and son team of D.R. and D.P. Quass.

Although the company has enjoyed much growth and success over the vears, customers still find a strong, unwavering personal attention to themselves and their needs that goes back to 1932 when Paul Quass first began practicing his craft – artistry that is bestowed upon everything from the smallest family heirloom to the largest hotel lobby. The company's strict standards of quality and craftsmanship apply

to all of its services and prevail with its reupholstering. "We offer custom-built furnishings for every room of your house, church or business, including flooring, carpeting, window treatments and wall coverings," D.P Quass said. "We are your one-stop shop."

Regular hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. Appointments and consultations outside of regular hours are available by request.

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If you are in the market for quality antiques, vintage and designer

Antiques, vintage and designer

furniture, accessories

furniture and accessories, including lamps, mirrors and pictures (even original works of art by local artists), then a stop at Manor House Antique Mall, 8039 S. Meridian St., is a must.

And that's not all you will find. There are collectibles, mirrors, pictures, unique gift items and a wide selection of records covering decades of popular soloists and groups.

Shopping at Manor House is an adventure as there are no shelves or stockrooms filled with like items. It is about a close-knit group of 40 dealers researching, restoring, buying and attractively displaying items

in their own shops. The merchandise spans many decades, and it is always changing.

There is something for everyone's budget.

Manor House Antique Mall offers the opportunity to reminisce and to purchase a quality piece from the past.

If you are looking for quality home furnishings, you might want to check out an auction

And if an auction sounds inviting, you are in luck because Mike
Heimel Auction Service (317-783-



This grandfather clock will be auctioned Thursday at Heimel's at 6:30 pm

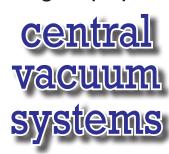
9637) hosts a sale every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at 59 N. Second Ave., Beech Grove.

This week's sale will feature a grandfather clock, leather furniture, bedroom and dining room furniture, household collectibles, Indianapolis 500 pit badges, die castcars, jewelry and much more.

"If you buy at an auction," Mike



Gaining in popularity ...



Vacuums and janitorial supplies

Cleary Vacuum & Janitorial, 3004 S. Meridian St. (317-783-6185) was founded over 40 years ago by Paul "Bud" and Marlene Cleary. Their philosophy then, as it is now, was to provide the best products,

service and parts in the floor care industry.

Their son, Mike, has taken over the management of the company and the tradition continues, although the scope of their business is

Gaining in popularity since the middle 1990s, central vacuum systems now account for about 80 percent of his business, Mike Cleary

But his showroom still features the products that customers have grown to depend on. "We're the only company you need to know for all of your residential and commercial cleaning needs," he said.

"All of our employees possess years of on-the-job experience. Not only that, they're also industry certified and committed to keeping up with the latest advances in the field. You can rest easy, because your vacuum will be in the best and most skilled hands that it can be

Cleary explained that central vacuum cleaners are installed into buildings and homes - before- or aftermarket - and remove dirt and debris through tubing installed inside the walls to a collection container in a remote utility space. The power unit is usually installed in a base

ment, garage or storage room, along with the collection container. Central vacuum systems gained popularity among real estate agents and home remodelers for the value they add to homes at resale. Allergists also played an important role in the growing demand for the systems

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General contractors

Don Harris Home Improvement (317-374-6646) specializes in siding, roofing, porches, replacement gutters and windows, room additions, decks, fences, storm repairs and garage conversions.

Co-owned by the father-and-son team of Don and Sean Harris, the

business was started 53 years ago by Don Harris'

father. Sean, who noted that exterior work is their forte, said they provide a high level of customer service. "We work with our customers to ensure that they are happy with the finished project. I like it when we use our creativity to help customers' dreams come true. If you have an idea of what you want your project to look like, we'll

design and



Sean Harris, co-owner and vice president, does whatever it takes to get the job done

build it with high-quality materials and excellent workmanship.

"If you have had storm damage, we'll provide you a competitive estimate for your repairs and work with your insurance company. "No job is too big or too small for us.



Quality work of Don Harris Home Improvements.







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Owner Bill Davis (right) is pictured with his family: son Daniel, wife Amy and son Jack

Another reliable company is B. Davis Remodeling (317-781-0566), which is owned by Bill Davis. He stresses the importance of checking references and says, "It's the homeowner's responsibility to check on contractors. You are interviewing them for a job. You can check them out on social media," he said, noting that the Better Business Bureau

and Angie's List are also excellent resources.

"And make sure your contractor is licensed and bonded in Indianapolis. The city is strict on its requirements, so if a company has those credentials, it is doing good work. Also make sure the contractor gets a building permit. If they don't, something is wrong.

"We use energy-efficient and topnotch products, but I don't believe in spending someone's money if it doesn't have to be spent. If the job is done right, there will be a profit. A rushed job never gets done well. We are not just a sign-and-build company. We want you happy today, tomorrow and for the next 20 years," said the 1982 Roncalli graduate "Our room additions are designed around your life."

A specialist in bathrooms, kitchens, additions, screened porches, basements, roofing, siding and windows, Davis said he strives for perfection because that ensures the end result is always acceptable. If a company shoots for acceptable, then the finished product is not.

Tree removal and hauling services

Fred & Sons' Hauling & Tree Removal Service (317-626-5973) was launched in 2002 by Don "Fred" Burns, a lifelong Southsider who enjoys servicing metro Indianapolis. He started his company as a side job but has hired a few full-time employees.

The business, which caters to home owners and real estate profes-

sionals and provides quality work at an affordable price, specializes in hauling services, removing junk, cleaning up properties, demolition ork and tree removal

"If you are in violation of a health code, we can help you comply." Burns said.

"Due to the emerald ash borer, we are seeing an increase in the emoval of infested ash trees."

The company has won many Super Service Awards from Angie's List and is a member of ITEX, a nationwide barter network.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON "FRED" BURNS Employees of Fred & Sons' Hauling & Tree Removal Service are adept with chain saws.

Yard Clean-up Rex Clark (317-513-2553) is a dependable hauler of brush, scrap metal and junk of any kind.

In addition, he runs a lawn care business and is handy when it

and garages, pruning trees and bushes, collecting leaves and

comes to cleaning out gutters

sprucing up yards

Concrete,

estimates

masonry work

Bob Meek, who's been in business for more than 30 years and

owns Meek & Son Construction (317-514-2405), a foundation-to-

chimney company, said it's important to get several references and

"Don't be afraid to ask for

references, and don't settle for a phone number that the company

guy throws at you," he says. "It could be a friend of his. There are

a lot of people who do good work,

but just a few disreputable com-

panies can give us a bad name.

Meek says the quality of his work is evidenced by the amount of referrals he gets. "Our work speaks for itself."

His family-operated business specializes in masonry, interior

and exterior painting, gutters and pouring concrete for patios. "Things are going well and

getting better all the time," said Meek, who derives much pleasure from his finished work. "You start

out with nothing and before you know it the job is done. I feel good knowing that I did something

If your chimney needs to be

In addition to cleaning and inspecting most chimneys for \$100,

cleaned, inspected or repaired, a call to Tracy Gibson (317-294-

3566) will take care of all your

he is an accomplished mason, having been in the trade for years.

block work and tuck pointing. Gibson said he offers the low-

est prices and fast service.

"I do a lot of foundation, brick and

Good luck

with your home projects!

Tree removal and topping services

While the Southside has been spared the wrath of Mother Nature's high winds and ice storms for several years, could our luck being near-

If such a storm does come our way and sends a tree crashing onto your home or yard, you'll want a dependable company to clean up the mess ... and E. White's Tree Service (317-786-4076) is one of the businesses that you will want to get an estimate from.

Offering 24-hour emergency service, Earl White has been in business for more than 30 years. He trims, tops and fertilizes trees, removes stumps, clears lots, does shrub work and sells firewood. He is fully insured and offers free estimates.

'If you want some free wood chips, just call us for free delivery," he

There is also Monty Glover, who has owned Glover's Tree Service

(317-358-3318) since 1992. "We remove trees and stumps," Glover said. "We do high-quality work at a reasonable price. We have a half million dollars worth of equipment so we are fully equipped to handle any tree situation. We have spent \$260,000 on new machinery over the past two years. We don't use bucket trucks anymore because they are hard to get into backyards, and they really tear up yards. We just use climbers; we



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MONTY GLOVER

A grapple is used by Mike Murray (left) and Carl Hancock of Glovers Tree Service to lift a heavy log. Also working are Rob Grant (left)

Another job (below) is almost finished.



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FASHION DISASTER DAY



PHOTO COURTESY OF DON "FRED" BURNS

Roncalli senior Ryan Burns, who is the son of Don 'Fred' Burns and works for his dad's hauling and tree removal service in the summer, organized some of his classmates and teachers wore Fred & Sons T-shirts for fashion disaster day during homecoming week.

IT'S FALL CLEAN-UP TIME

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Catering to home owners and real estate professionals. We specialize in hauling services, removing junk, cleaning up properties, demolition work, tree removal and lawn mowing.

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have the best climbers in the industry, and that's fact. If necessary, we will use a crane to lift trees that have fallen onto homes.

"While companies will tell you that they are insured, they don't tell you that their insurance doesn't cover all accidents that might happen on a job. That's where you could take an unnecessary risk. We are insured to cover all accidents, and we provide insurance certification upon request. Be careful who you hire. There are many unethical people in the tree business who want to make a quick buck. You should feel comfortable with the company you're going to hire. Just call

us, and you'll know that you're dealing with a reputable company.
"Our crew works well together," said Glover, an ultramarathon runner who's training for the JFK 50-Mile Memorial Nov. 17 in Maryland. He's running 26 miles every Saturday for a total of about 45 miles a week in preparation for the event. He ran the Boston Marathon in 2015.

Another reliable tree guy is Danny White, who owns Danny's Tree Service (317-784-2525). "The business has been in our family for four generations, and we do it all when it comes to trees. We top, trim, remove and feed them, grind stumps and sell firewood. We also cable forked trees ... that's where the forks are connected by cables so they can't split away from the tree and cause damage to nearby property. This provides homeowners with peace of mind.

White also treats ash trees that have been infested by emerald ash borers. "There's a 50-50 chance that a tree can survive, if it's treated

soon enough. But you have to treat it annually.

White, who offers 24-hour emergency service and free estimates, is confident that he provides professional work at reasonable prices. "That's why 85 percent of my business comes from word-of-mouth."

"I offer free estimates and discounts to senior citizens, and we do snow removal

Dave Applegate, who owns Dave's Tree & Lawn (317-938-6539), is also a seasoned professional. He's been in the business 10 years and specializes in the removal of large trees, but he does everything when it comes to trees ... trimming, topping, removing, etc. He also mows lawns and landscapes. "Call me for a free estimate."

Contrary to popular belief, spring and fall aren't the only times to trim a tree, according to an arborist, who added that most trees can be pruned anytime. However, there is a plus to having trees cut back in early spring and late fall ... there are no leaves to clean up. And some companies will work for a discount when business is slow during the

Plumbing

If you are looking for a dependable plumber, Bob and Steve Starks will say look no further than Starks Plumbing Service (317-767-7512), which was founded by their grandfather, Wayne Starks, and his father,

Robert L. Starks, and passed down through the family.

The Starks brothers attended St. Mark Grade School and Perry Meridian High.

Their expertise is residential installation and repair work. Services include installing water heaters and softeners, garbage disposals,

sinks, faucets, toilets, etc.
"We are an established company that you can depend on," they said. "We strive to treat our customers with respect and leave a positive impression before we leave their homes. We install the same brands and quality products that we have in our homes and stand behind our workmanship long after the standard one-year period. We feel fortunate to be in a trade that we enjoy and find rewarding.

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Steve (317)501-7314

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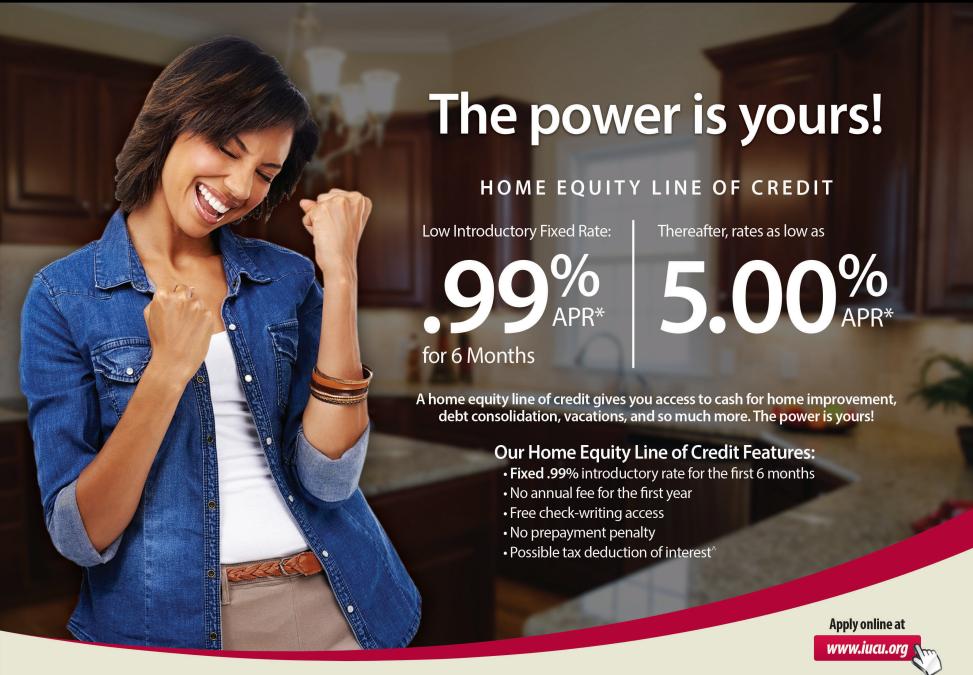
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Pool City's Hearth Shop

People who assume that Pool City, 940 Fry Road, Greenwood (317-888-3933), carries only pool-related merchandise are mistaken. In addition to specializing in Fiberglas and vinyl liner in-ground pools, replacement liners, heaters, pumps and automatic covers, the company also sells fireplaces, fireplace inserts and doors, vented and vent-free gas logs, wood-burning and gas stoves, grills, smokers and

"Our priority is making sure our customers receive the best value for their money," said owners Chris and Lynn Newett. "We take pride in offering quality products and exemplary service. If you are thinking about purchasing an in-ground pool, call us to set up an in-home consultation visit. Let us show you how you can turn your backyard into your special retreat.

'As a family business, we understand families. Pool City has more

Our motto is, "We keep you cool when it's hot, and warm when it's cold."





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Air conditioning and heating

With Old Man Winter lurking around the corner and meteorologists predicting harsh weather on the horizon, you might want to have the phone number of Annee & Bartram Heating and Cooling (317-889-. 9574) handy just in case your furnace goes on the blink.

Angi Bartram, who owns the company with her husband, Doug, says now is the ideal time to get your furnace checked. An annual inspection can extend a unit's life by several years while cutting heating costs, and filters should be replaced on a regular basis.

"If you have an older furnace, it should be checked for cracks in the heat exchanger, which can emit carbon monoxide," said Angie, whose dad, Joe Annee, likes to help out around the shop when he's not golfing. Joe owned Annee & Matry Heating & Cooling for years, which is where the Bartrams gained their 30-plus years of experience.

And it's expensive to repair older furnaces, Angie said. Sometimes it's better to replace them because the newer models are more efficient and save money.

The company services residential customers and works on all

makes and models of furnaces and air conditioners.

"It's been a busy year, and we've been blessed with a hot summer, but I'm ready for some cooler weather," Angie said.

In continuing with an old adage of her father, Angie notes that their prices are not the lowest and not the highest, "but we are honest. "Let our family work for yours."

Garage doors

When it comes to installing garage doors, openers and springs, Garage Doors by John Walke (317-670-8037) is known for its excellent

A 30-plus year veteran in the business, John Walke founded his company in 2006 and offers next-day service when repairing doors. The installation of a door with an opener can take up to a week since the door has to be ordered.

Prodoor and Chamberlain openers are the brands that he uses because of their reliability. "There are a lot of products out there, but I stay away from the ones not known for their quality," said Walke, adding that keyless entries are becoming popular because people don't have to take their keys with them when going for a walk

The bulk of his business is residential, but he has some commercial jobs and occasionally hangs barn doors for country folks.



SUBMITTED PHOTO John Walke only uses quality garage openers and doors

Your one-stop shops

Menards, 7140 S. Emerson Ave. (317-885-7900) and 300 S. Marlin Drive (317-882-2703), Greenwood, is a full-service home improvement store that provides building products and plans and custom or do-ityourself home improvement project supplies.

Shoppers will also find a complete line of appliances, home decor, plumbing supplies, outdoor recreation products like camping gear and boating and fishing supplies, tools, hardware products, lighting, patio furniture, landscaping materials and other items too numerous too

For the do-it-yourselfers who don't need a lot of assistance with their endeavors, they can turn to Cardwell Do-it Best Home Center, 3205 Madison Ave. (317-788-0008), for most of their supplies. Customers will find building materials, painting, roofing, plumbing and electrical supplies, doors and windows, power tools and much more.

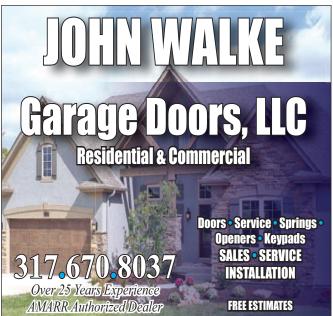
Opened in 1945, the business has evolved over the years, but its commitment to serving customers hasn't changed, said owner Jeff Cardwell, who can boast that his store is a premier roofing outlet because of its vast inventory of shingles and roofing supplies.

"Without the support of our customers, we wouldn't be here." Harbor Freight Tools, 4200 S. East St., in Southern Plaza, is a discount tool and equipment retailer that has an almost endless list of products.

Whether you are looking for power, air or hand tools, storage devices, floor jacks, batteries, hoists, generators, lawn and garden supplies or any other tool, you will probably find it at Harbor Freight.

While this story may not cover all your needs for the project at hand, more contractors are listed in our service directory on Pages 10 and 11. These are not the here-today, gone-tomorrow guys; many have faithfully served the Southside for decades.















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