



# HOUSE

*to home*

THE LAS CRUCES  
**Bulletin 2022**  
**HOME**  
**IMPROVEMENT**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022



# Bring it on home

The title of this year's Bulletin home improvement guide is House to Home. And that's what we're all striving for, right? A house is just a building but a home, well, a home is a world you and your loved ones have created for the long haul. A place where you can be yourselves and be reminded of your best selves.

That's why you need a photo of that one special family pet, framed and hung by the door leading to the garage. That's why you need a place where friends



**RICHARD COLTHARP**

From the Publisher

can gather and sit under the big shade tree in the backyard. That's why you need that upgraded stove you've been talking about for years. That's why you need that recliner, that screen door, that ceiling fan and that computer

system. It's why you need to finally get that landscaping done and fix that part of the sidewalk that started crumbling in 1989.

Many of you have purchased a new house in the past few years – it seems half of Las Cruces has done that. That might mean you have even more work to do regarding turning it into a



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home.

This guide is designed to get your creative juices flowing, and working on new ideas.

The pandemic meant a lot of us spent more time in our homes than we previously did. We found a lot of things we wanted to change,

but we also found new ways we can use our homes.

So, whether your task is to furnish a complete house, or simply to replace that old, beat-up barbecue grill in the backyard, make a plan, stick to your budget and live your best life in the place you want to call home.

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# Updating your floors? Lots of local options

By BULLETIN STAFF

One of the most dramatic upgrades you can make to your home is to change the flooring.

The options are nearly endless: change your carpet for hardwood floors; change your hardwood floors for tile; change your tile to treated concrete; change your treated concrete to carpeting.

Some homes may have combinations of all of these.

Las Cruces has a number of longstanding, customer-proven flooring companies, including Malooly's Flooring Company, Casey Carpet of Las Cruces, Inc., Stout

Hardwood Floor Co., Inc., and Hacienda Carpet and Tile.

Stout Hardwood Floor, which Harry L. Stout started in the 1930s, and features hardwood and vinyl flooring. Barry A. Stout, Harry's grandson, is now the company president.

Durability is a benefit of hard flooring for all types of residential applications and said Stout Flooring also can completely restore floors in historic homes and properties – its clients include the Amador Hotel. The company has crews skilled in residential and commercial installation, and offers a wide range of styles to create a cus-



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tomers' dream flooring.

Customers are invited to visit the Stout showroom to see "a huge variety of samples" and "pick out what your love."

Malooly's Flooring Co. celebrated its 40th an-

niversary in Las Cruces in 2020, but the business has existed much longer than that. With his brothers Albert, Edward, Richard and Raymond, George Malooly opened a carpet and furniture store in El Paso in the

late 1950s, continuing a tradition begun by their grandfather, Esau Malooly, who brought his family to El Paso from Lebanon in the early 1900s, and opened a furniture store in 1907. George's daughter and namesake, Georgette Malooly, took over the Las Cruces business, joined by her sister, Barbara, in 1987. Georgette and the late Norman Todd's oldest son, Chris, took over everyday management in 2018.

They all agreed that the store's success is based on customer service. "We take the time to listen to the customer, help find the product that will work best and

make sure the customer is 100 percent satisfied," Georgette said.

The Maloolys' crew has more than 200 years' experience in the flooring industry, and its showroom includes a wide range of carpet and hard-surface flooring, including tile. Now is "an excellent time to re-do flooring," including for home improvement projects, said Casey Carpet owner Hank Schweinebraten, who has operated the family business in Las Cruces since 1989. Casey Carpet includes teams of trained installers, which is important, Schweinebraten said,

SEE FLOORS, PAGE 5

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# Bring a frame of reference to your home

By BULLETIN STAFF

At one time, every wall in every house was blank.

Few things personalize a house and make it feel like a home more than framed art and photos on the wall.

Favorite family portraits and vacation photos don't have to live forever on your phone or in a 3x5 glossy print. Sometimes blowing them up can have a dramatic effect and, framed properly, can change the whole aura of a room. Even a child's drawing, with the right color and framing, can graduate from the refrigerator

door to a lovely wall-mounted memento.

It's easy enough to find nice wall art at department stores, but living in the Land of Enchantment, almost all of us personally know a good artist or photographer. Why not purchase something from your friend or family member, something that has more meaning? Even a photo you took yourself. That art, framed well and hung in the right spot, will transform an area and bring a more personal smile each time you see it.

Brenda Nevue, co-owner of Frame & Art Center (1100 S. Main St.,

#108) in Las Cruces recommends getting it done right.

"Quality framing is an asset to home décor, because just like any other piece of furniture, you want it to last," Nevue said. "When you use real wood built by an experienced woodworker, you have a product that is going to last. Quality framing has a large range of prices."

Framing can be one of those areas where, if you do it on the cheap, it looks it.

Another quality framing shop in Las Cruces is Picture Frame Factory Outlet (382 S. Walnut St.), which saw an unexpected

wave of new customers during the Coronavirus pandemic.

"You know what's bringing people in?" asked Greg Groves of Picture Frame Factory Outlet. "Zoom meetings. Everyone's on these Zoom meetings and some of them are self-conscious about what's on their backgrounds."

Certainly, some nice art can dress up any background, as well as say something about who you are as a person and where you are in your life.

"Some of these people in their late 20s and early 30s are looking around and saying, 'Maybe it's



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time to take the concert posters off the wall," Groves said.

Not that a concert poster is a bad thing and,

in some cases, dressed up with the right frame or presentation, they can

SEE **FRAME**, PAGE 5

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**FRAME**, CONTINUED FROM 4

actually be quite beautiful.

Local art is also available in the Picture Frame Factory Outlet studio, including the dramatic photos of Groves' father, Mike Groves.

Mike Groves has been capturing the power of the Organ Mountains and the other iconic landscapes of southern New Mexico for years. Adding one of these images to your wall will certainly signify a sense of place.

Also, bear in mind, a framed piece of art doesn't necessarily have to live all the time in the same place on the same wall. Changing and refreshing your framed art and photos can bring a new look and feel to the entire home.

"When it comes to home décor, it's important to remember that everyone has their own style," Nevue said. "When I work out a design with a customer, I always



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try to get a feel for their style preferences. If you know your style, I find it best to stick to that base when making choices on what to add to the room. Picking an inspiration to work from when designing a room's décor can help you make sure everything fits together. However, when it comes to framing, you want to make

sure the design goes with the art, rather than trying to frame it for the room's décor. Therefore, it is a good idea to keep that in mind when choosing art for a room."

But what if you want to go wild, and fill a whole wall, from floor to ceiling with framed art and photos?

"Do it!" Nevue said. "Do it in another room! If you run out of room, build another wall! Just kidding. If you want to devote a wall to art, the first thing to take into consideration is how your style will work with it. Are you someone who prefers to have things matching? If so, you will want to pick a neutral frame that can work with any art you choose to add to the wall. Are you more eclectic with your style? If so, your choices for framing can be subject specifically to what best enhances the artwork."

Precious captured memories and personally inspiring works of art turn a house not just into a home, but into your home.

**FLOORS**, CONTINUED FROM 3

because "a professional should do your flooring"

Schweinebraten, Stout Hardwood Floors Residential Project Manager Marek Rogers and Malooly's Flooring Company Manager Chris Todd also said hard-surface flooring has overtaken carpets in popularity, although Casey and Malooly's also continue to offer many carpet choices as well.

"Our showroom at one point was 15 percent hard surface," Schweinebraten said last year. "Now it's probably 50 percent." Hard surface is more durable than carpet, he said. For a living room, dining room or family room, "you're more apt to go hard surface right now because it's some-

thing you won't change for a long time."

Casey Carpet's stock includes "floating floors," Schweinebraten said, which "people can do themselves" because they simply click together and aren't attached to the floor. They're easy to care for, he said, and can be moved from one room to another.

Casey Carpet: 1515 W. Amador Ave., 575-523-9595, [www.caseycarpet-toflascruces.com](http://www.caseycarpet-toflascruces.com); Stout Hardwood Floor Co.: 695 S. Compress Road #1, 575-521-4143, [www.stout-hardwood-floors.com](http://www.stout-hardwood-floors.com); Malooly's Flooring Company: 765 N. Valley Drive, 575-523-0633, <http://maloolys.com/>; Hacienda Carpet & Tile: 910 El Paseo Road, 575-525-2088, [facebook.com/Hacienda-Carpet-and-Tile](http://facebook.com/Hacienda-Carpet-and-Tile).



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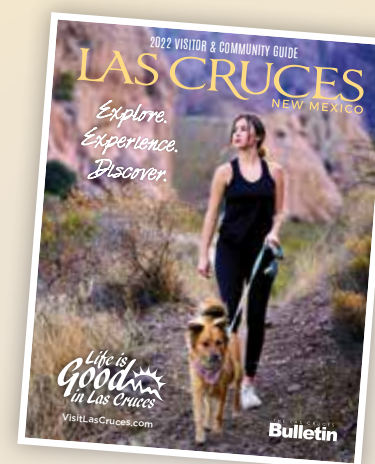
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Learn about all the things to do and places to see in our area. From arts & culture, to wining & dining, to all the wonderful outdoor opportunities in our backyard, it's all in this publication.

The 2022 edition is available free on local newsstands, or see below how to get one in your hands.

**Reserve your copy for free home delivery in the Las Cruces area by contacting Bulletin Distribution Manager Teresa Tolonen at [teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com](mailto:teresa@lascrucesbulletin.com). Or call 575-524-8061. You can also come by our offices at 1740-A Calle de Mercado to pick one up. You can also view the guide online at [www.lascrucesbulletin.com](http://www.lascrucesbulletin.com).**





# Indoors or outdoors, get cooking with some upgrades

By BULLETIN STAFF

It's an old real estate maxim that, to increase the value of your home, the most important room to update is the kitchen, with bathrooms a runner-up.

And while it may not be a maxim, everyone in Las Cruces knows our nearly year-round nice weather is ideal for cooking outside. And more and more locals are putting together outdoor kitchens.

Whether you're considering an indoor or an outdoor kitchen update – or both! – there are many ways to do it, and a wide range of financial investment.

## AN INDOOR PLAN

Some people don't have entirely realistic plans when it comes to refurbishing their indoor kitchens, said Sandino, who owns Cabinet Specialties in Las Cruces.

"The answer, I think, is to do a lot of planning in advance," Sandino said. "For example, I meet with a customer and see what they have in mind."

Sandino suggested a careful look at what you like and what you don't like about your kitchen. Then realistic guidelines can be established as to what is a comfortable expense for the project.

"Basically," he said. "What you are doing when you improve a

home is increase value of the home immediately. If you get a good improvement, it is good in the long run and you enjoy it while you use it."

## AN OUTDOOR START

Outdoor cooking has upped its game since your grandfather poured charcoal into his flimsy metal grill years ago to char up a few hot dogs for your birthday.

Sure, the barbecue grill is still around, but now you can pay thousands of dollars for one, and/or have a permanent set-up on your patio.

Here are three sure-fire ways to add some sizzle to your backyard without breaking the



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**A Treager grill offers much more control and versatility to your backyard cooking.**

bank.

- A fire pit. While this isn't necessarily the answer to your gourmet

cooking questions, a fire pit can add new options to your outdoor living.

Yes, you can cook grand-

pa's hot dogs here, or grandma's s'mores, but

SEE **COOKING**, PAGE 7

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**COOKING, CONTINUED**  
FROM 6

a fire pit is even better suited for conversations with friends when the fall weather gets crisp. Or maybe sharing a good sipping tequila with your dad around the Christmas holidays.

• A Traeger grill. One of the most popular additions to a backyard is a Traeger pellet-burning grill, said a project manager at Western Stoves and Fireplaces in Las Cruces last year.

Traeger grills range from \$899 to \$1,499 and work like a convection oven.

“They have a blower that circulates the heat around your food, so you get a real even cook. It uses smoke to add flavor. You can bake in it, grill in it, cook in it and even do a little bit of a boil in it.”

• A pizza oven. Who doesn't love pizza? Western Stoves and Fireplaces carries both indoor and outdoor versions of these ovens, which start at more than \$2,000. An outdoor oven can transform your backyard to the most popular place on the block when you host pizza night. It's also a great way to have a quick, homecooked summer meal without heating up your indoor kitchen.

**GETTING IT RIGHT**

Upgrading and renovating your indoor kitchen can be an expensive proposition but, Sandino said, any additional money spent to get



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**A fire pit can greatly change the dynamic of outdoor living at your home.**

it done right will always pay off.

“Your best investment

is to buy quality materials that will stay together and look good in the

future,” Sandino said. “I do a kitchen in a week or two, where, if you hire the wrong (unlicensed) people they may never finish.”

Hiring a professional not only means the job will be done well and in a timely manner but also can benefit the homeowner with professional connections. For example, Sandino said he has connections in the financing industry he can recommend. He also only starts with 10 percent and then draws expenses as needed. He suggested customers beware of companies that require 100 percent of the cost of a job up front. He also has professional sub-contractors and suppliers he is familiar with and trusts.

**QUICK & EASY**

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- Replace knobs and handles on kitchen cabinets
- Put in new sink faucets
- Add a programmable thermostat
- Replace outdoor light fixtures
- Put in a new shower head

**DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME**

(ask the professionals)

- Don't attempt to repair a foundation
- Don't mount an antenna on the roof of your two-story home on a windy day
- Don't install solar panels
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- Don't stack your dryer on your washer by yourself

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# Something bugging you?

By BULLETIN STAFF

You finally got that hot tub you've wanted for years installed in your backyard. And for the first six months, you loved it!

But in the seventh month, lights and other electrical operations on the tub quit working properly.

Before you start cursing the spa dealer, or the installers, consider something none of us ever wants to consider.

Rats.

Yes, friends, there are rats in the desert, and they love to crawl into tight spaces where water's around, and they love to chew on wires, specifically the plastic coating of the wires, which in some cases are made with tasty (to rats) soy.

Your home may be your castle, but it's also a high-rise apartment for bugs, a vacation cabin for vermin, a luxury hotel for arachnids and an international airport for winged pests.

As unnerving as rats are, they are just one of the menagerie of desert-dwelling critters that can make their way into our homes. At one point or another, you'll have to deal with ants (the insect



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homeowners have the most problems with), pigeons, termites – often discovered during home remodeling – mice, cockroaches, flies, moths, scorpions, spiders, bed bugs, centipedes, bees, wasps and more.

If your problems go beyond a can of Raid or some hardware-store mouse traps, it's time to get the professionals involved. In the Las Cruces area, there are several reputable pest control companies.

A list of some of those follows.

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**New Mexico Pest Control, 575-215-5465**

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**Preventive Pest Control, 575-404-3302**

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**Arrowhead Exterminators, 575-525-1244**

**A Hired Killer Exterminators, 575-312-2228**

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# Maintaining the roof over your head

By BULLETIN STAFF

Man may have invented the wheel thousands of years ago but, so far, no one has invented the leakproof roof.

So, no matter what type of roof you have – asphalt shingles, clay tile or a flat coated roof – time and the elements will take their toll.

Here in the Chihuahuan Desert of Southern New Mexico, we may not have as much roof-damaging rains as other parts of the country, but we have a relentless sun beating down on the tops of our houses all year round.

Whether your roof needs a check-up, some spot fixes, or a complete replacement, there are plenty of experts in Las

Cruces available to help you out.

A list of some of those roofers below. Almost all of these businesses have favorable online reviews. One of them, Anthony Sosa Roofing & Construction, was voted by Las Cruces Bulletin readers as the Best Roofing Company, both for 2021 and 2022, in the Bulletin's Best of the Mesilla Valley contest.

Mark Anthony Sosa, who founded his company in 2011, has more than 30 years of roofing experience.

"I started at a young age roofing with my family's business in hopes of one day starting my own company, which I did," Sosa said. "We focus on making every customer happy and we do what we say we're going to do."

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- Avoid planting trees and shrubs within three feet of your gas meter. as the bush or tree grows, the roots can damage the piping.

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### PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Las Cruces Home Builders Association**,  
2825 N. Main St., Las Cruces;  
575-526-6126, www.lchba.com

### REALTORS

**Amy Hartley**, Coldwell Banker Legacy;  
575-313-1455 (mobile), 575-521-1000 (office)

### ROOFING

**Anthony Sosa Roofing**, Las Cruces;  
575-288-5615; anthonyososaroofing.com

### RUSTIC FURNITURE, SOUTHWEST DÉCOR

**Coyote Traders**, 1024 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces;  
575-524-0040, www.coyotetraders.com,  
email coyotetraderslc@gmail.com

### UTILITIES

**Zia Natural Gas**, 3700 W. Picacho Ave., Las Cruces;  
575-526-4427; www.zngc.com





# WOW your walls!

Picture Frame Factory Outlet has been serving the Mesilla Valley and surrounding areas since 1981. We are a full-service custom frame shop specializing in archival framing, matting, and design services, helping you preserve, protect and proudly display your precious memories and artistic inspirations.



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## Elevate your art

Rio Grande Fine Art is a new gallery located inside Picture Frame Outlet. Established in 2021, we feature photographic works by Mike Groves, fine art by Jill Malouf, Robert "Shoofly" Shufelt, Adrian Aguirre and many more local and regional artists.



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