

Creative Living

Marilyn Fitchett editor/591-2300



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organizing
Dorothy
Lehmkuhl

Planning on all fronts assures trip's success

Q: Every year we try to take a nice vacation, but we always get off to a hurried start or something goes wrong and we can't go where we wanted. How can we avoid such pitfalls?

A: The difference between careful or inadequate planning could mean the difference between a fun, relaxing get-away or a ruined holiday.

Many people fantasize about their dream vacation, but do insufficient planning to assure its success. Procrastination and assumptions can cause big problems. Most of us know what's needed, but we put off doing it until it's too late.

If you are driving, don't just assume your car will probably make it. Nothing causes more frustration than finding you need three days of work done on a car that is scheduled to leave tomorrow. Have your car checked well in advance.

If headed for the beach, have you tried on your bathing suit, or do you just "assume" it's all right? (Maybe a mouse has chewed a hole in a strategic spot . . .) If you are camping, waiting until the last minute could mean finding the tent is moldy, zippers are broken or a stake is missing. If scuba diving is your hobby, have your tanks been visually checked? Do you need gear that must be ordered?

Don't wait to get your passport, reserve a boarding place for your pet, or buy the luggage you need.

assuming you can get what you want in the final stages. If you haven't made reservations, you may miss the Octoberfest, the cabin you always rent or the flight that will get you there on time. Delaying vacation scheduling at work could mean someone else getting dibs on the weeks you wanted off.

Why procrastinate on something so important? Consider some of these reasons: 1) Fear of Failure/Decision making. Some people can't decide between going to the mountains or the beach because they are afraid of making the wrong choice. (It's not a life and death matter; flip a coin and stick to it.) 2) Inadequate Information. Without researching your plans, for instance, you don't know the nights to reserve motels. 3) Time/Priority. Current appointments seem more important than planning sabbaticals and a specific time is not set aside to do the planning. If you wait, it may be too late.

Building on past debacles, start a checklist now and schedule time to complete each task. Get a checklist book from the library or bookstore, catch the glitches in advance — and have a happy vacation.

Dorothy Lehmkuhl welcomes comments and suggestions for columns from readers. Send those to her in care of this newspaper, 30251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

Popular plant-ins: perennials, color veggies

By Earl Aronson
special writer

WHAT DID you plant, or plan to plant, in your garden this year? Did you include many of the items that are popular among gardeners, seed buyers and other sources?

David Phillips, of Park Seed Co. (Greenwood, SC 29647), reports that perennials are much in favor; so are cut flowers, everlasting dry arrangements, dried potpourri and wreaths.

Selling well, he added, are marigolds, zinnias, impatiens, Achillea, Delphinium, gomphrena, echinacea, globosa, and herbs that are used in place of salt to flavor food, providing more natural flavoring.

Colored vegetables also are popular, including purple peppers and radishes, yellow stuffing tomatoes, orange bush squash, Honey Red seedless bush melon, and yellow ornamental edibles such as Malabar spinach and hyacinth bean.

SPACE-SAVING vegetables that will grow in containers are also in demand.

Vegetables that are big sellers at Park include Sweet Million, Better Bush and Whopper tomatoes, County Fair and Whopper cucumbers, County bean and Romano bush bean.

New items from Petoseed (P.O. Box 4240, Ft. Myers, FL 33902) include Jack o'Hearts, a triplod seedless jack (or nearly so) watermelon, early to midseason, 10-15 pounds; First Lady hybrid tomato, medium-size fruit, 68 days from transplanting, disease-resistant; Bridgeland hybrid broccoli, midseason; Bush Baby cucumber, medium-green beans; Yellow Stuffer tomato, abundant producer, resembles yellow pepper; and Clairmore hybrid squash, slightly tapered 6- to 8-inches long, fruit, light green and speckled, early.

weeder's guide

Earl
Aronson

From Van Bourgondien Bros. (P.O. Box A, Babylon, NY 11701): Mignon dahlia Sweetheart, daisylike flowers, 12-15 inches tall, bloom all summer; Japanese nemophila, large, dainty flowers, pink, purple and white, plants 2 inches tall, bloom September to fall; and Red Cap primula, 15-18 inches tall, with clusters of lac-pink flowers, likes shade or sun, good for borders and rock gardens.

Burpee (Warminster, PA 18974) offers, among others, international vegetables that are "favorite" in their native lands but little-known in the United States. They include the Haricot Vert or filet beans from France; the Asparagus bean from long pods from South West Asia, and well-known in Europe; broccoli Romanesco, widely grown in Italy; and Whilloof (French or Belgian) endive.

OTHER BURPEE introductions include butterhead lettuce from France, summer mustard green, bush shell beans from the Caribbean, and cabbage from Alsace-Lorraine.

Newcomers from Stokely Seeds (Box 4240, Ft. Myers, FL 33902) include Hungarian plant breeder Lajos Turi; seedless Jack o'Hearts watermelon; Sunburst VP beefsteak tomato, very early; Centon cabbage; Precocious sweet corn, early maturing Can-Am Express; a cross of a Western cantaloupe and an Eastern muskmelon; and two "baby" vegetables — Bush Baby cucumber (pickling gherkins) early.

Please turn to Page 2

condo queries
Robert M.
Meisner

Q: Our condo has what can be best described as a "peeping Tom" who happens to be a female. She has been observed throughout the condominium project on numerous occasions. Several residents of the association, who are reluctant to confront her, have registered complaints with the board, but to no avail, which, for some reason has been reluctant to take any action. I am a co-owner, am about ready to call the police but am asking you for your good advice regarding this sensitive, but serious, problem.

A: While the police may be the best vehicle, initially, to contact with respect to this question, it is not altogether clear that the police will assume jurisdiction over this type of problem, particularly on private property. On the other hand, the association may have a responsibility to intercede to the extent that this has become a problem which is pervasive throughout the condominium, i.e., that the peeping lady seems to be conducting her affairs throughout the condominium project.

I would suggest that you contact the board by letter, advising them in a specific manner of the situation and requesting that there is a provision in the condominium documents which prohibits "immoral or improper behavior" (as there usually is). They should be encouraged to invoke that provision and be reminded of their legal and fiduciary responsibilities to do so.

Perhaps, a short letter from the board to the person in question may have a therapeutic effect on that person and/or will serve as impetus for that person to seek the professional care which is, apparently, needed.

Q: I am an apartment owner and am wondering what responsibility I have now under the recent amendments to the Fair Housing Act, as it relates to keeping children in one building with their families and allowing other buildings to be "Adults Only," which I understand used to be allowed in Michigan?

A: You're right. It used to be allowed, based on a 1984 Michigan Supreme Court decision. However, under the Fair Housing Act, as amended, regulations and rules promulgated under that act suggest that families with children be given the opportunity to rent any apartment unit in the entire complex, horizontally or vertically. Not allowing them to do so is a violation of the act with the attendant civil penalties, which are substantial.

Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham attorney specializing in condominiums, real estate and corporate law. You are invited to submit topics which you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 300 Telegraph Road, Birmingham 48108, Birmingham 4810. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.

Meisner will be instructing a basic condominium association operation class on Saturday, June 10 under auspices of St. Clair Community College. For more information, call 984-3881, Ext. 214. The class is open to developers, association board members, management companies, attorneys, accountants and anyone servicing condominiums.

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