

The Sun's HOME & GARDEN PROMO

Homegrown In The Sun

By Dave Miller, WOW Windows

Window Boxes Add Wow Factor
Some home details make an immediate impression. Window boxes are one of them. They frame windows, soften sharp lines and bring color and life to the outside of a home. When designed well, they don't just decorate a house – they make it feel warm, welcoming and cared for.

In Sun Country and beyond, WOW Windowboxes takes a thoughtful approach to this classic design feature. The locally owned business creates custom-built window boxes and planters with seasonal plantings that change throughout the year. The focus is on balance – between design and nature, beauty and durability.

Every window box is designed to fit the home it belongs to. Details like the size of the windows, the style of the house, trim color and how much sun the area gets all matter. Instead of using standard, store-bought planters, each box is built to look like it has always been part of the home.

One of the things that sets WOW Windowboxes apart is its four-season approach. In spring, window boxes are filled with pansies and early flowers that signal the start of the growing season. Summer designs are full and colorful, using plants that trail, spread and thrive in the heat. Fall brings warmer tones, mums and ornamental grasses that match the changing leaves. Even winter gets attention, with evergreen garland, pinecones, berries and simple accents that keep homes looking polished when flowers are gone.

Many homeowners like the idea of window boxes but worry about the upkeep. Choosing the right plants, keeping them healthy, watering them properly and changing them with the seasons can feel overwhelming. WOW Windowboxes handles the entire process from design and installation to custom irrigation systems, maintenance and seasonal refreshes. This allows homeowners to enjoy the look without the extra work.

The company also designs planter boxes for porch railings, entryways and other exterior features. These additions help tie a home's outdoor spaces together, especially on front porches and townhomes where symmetry and balance make a big difference.



Dave Miller of WOW Windows

Materials matter just as much as plants. WOW Windowboxes builds its boxes using durable PVC, which stands up well to changing weather while keeping a clean, finished look. Combined with smart planting techniques, this helps ensure the boxes stay attractive throughout each season.

Well-designed window boxes do more than add beauty. They show care and attention, create a welcoming first impression and can even boost how a home is perceived from the street. As more people think of outdoor spaces as part of their living area, window boxes offer a simple way to add character and charm.

No matter the style of home, a thoughtfully designed window box can change how it feels at first glance. In that way, curb appeal becomes more than decoration – it becomes a personal touch.

To schedule a free estimate or learn more about custom window boxes and seasonal plantings in Central Pennsylvania, visit www.wowwindowboxes.com/central-pa

Homegrown In The Sun

By Andy Shrawder, Hershey Termite and Pest Control

Spring in Sun Country is one of the most enjoyable times of year. Gardens begin to grow, bees buzz through flowering trees and families finally shake off the heavy winter coats to spend more time outdoors.

Spring is also the time of year when many pests become active again.

As a local pest management company, our job is to address issues with intrusive pests while protecting the people, pets and beneficial insects that share our environment. Responsible pest management starts with understanding that not every insect needs to be eliminated. In many cases, the best approach is managing where insects live and how they interact with our homes and outdoor spaces.

At Hershey Termite and Pest Control, we utilize a method called Integrated Pest Management (IPM) – a science-based approach that focuses on prevention, monitoring and targeted control rather than simply applying pesticides. In many situations, pest problems can be reduced or even solved by addressing the conditions that allow pests to thrive. That might mean identifying entry points where mice are getting into a home, recommending simple sanitation improvements to prevent ants from invading a kitchen or helping homeowners adjust landscaping practices that encourage stinging insects to nest too close to living areas. Small changes – such as sealing gaps around utility lines, reducing standing water in yards or trimming vegetation away from siding – can often make a significant difference in preventing pest problems before they start. Responsible pest management also means helping homeowners understand the difference between pests that require control and beneficial insects that should be protected. Many insects that people worry about actually play an important role in maintaining healthy landscapes and gardens. One area where responsible pest control is especially important is protecting pollinators, particularly bees. Honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees are essential to agriculture, home gardens and the overall health of our local ecosystem.

Occasionally, homeowners discover honey bee colonies inside walls, attics or other parts of a structure where the bees create safety concerns for the household. In such cases, bringing in other professionals is often the answer. For example, rather than treating honey bees as a simple pest problem, we work closely with Bill Fisher, owner of Bees-N-Trees. Bill specializes in honey bee removal and relocation. When honey bee colonies are discovered inside a structure, we coordinate with Bill to safely remove and relocate the colony whenever possible, so it can continue contributing to our local pollinator population. This partnership allows us to solve the homeowner's problem while also preserving the bees. It's a great example of how local



Andy Shrawder, left, and Bill Fisher of Bees-N-Trees. Photo: Submitted.

professionals can work together to protect both people and the environment.

When treatments are necessary, we use the least amount of material needed and apply it in a way that targets the pest, while minimizing impact on the surrounding environment. Targeted applications are often more effective because they address the root of the problem instead of simply reacting to it. Our Integrated Pest Management philosophy also guides how we address other pest issues, such as mosquitoes. Rather than relying solely on broad spray treatments, we offer options that focus on interrupting the mosquito life cycle where they breed. Mosquitoes need very little standing water to reproduce – sometimes as little as a bottle cap. By targeting mosquitoes at the larval stage in standing water around a property, we can significantly reduce mosquito pressure while minimizing impact on beneficial insects and the surrounding environment.

When Hershey Termite and Pest Control was founded, the goal was simple: provide effective pest management solutions that protect homes while respecting the environment and the community we serve. By working with other local businesses, collaborating with homeowners and using Integrated Pest Management practices, we're proud to play our part in maintaining a healthy and balanced environment throughout our region.

For homeowners, a few small actions can make a big difference: watch for pest entry points around the home, eliminate standing water where mosquitoes can breed and take a moment to identify insects before assuming they are pests.

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Community Dinner

Evangelical UMC, 157 E. Water St., Middletown, will host a meatloaf dinner on Saturday, March 21, from 4:30-6 p.m. The dinner is \$13 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. The meal includes meatloaf, baked potato, green beans, applesauce and dessert. Dine-in or take-out options are available, and all are encouraged to come. For more information, call 717-944-6181.

Pysanky Egg Class

Sue Copenhaver and Elaine Enders will hold a Ukrainian egg decorating class on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish House, located at the corner of Rosanna Street and North Alley in Hummelstown. Participants will complete two eggs during the class, and the fee to attend is \$35, which includes all supplies. Reserve your spot by contacting Sue at sweetbing7711@gmail.com

Hummelstown Hunger Run

The 11th annual Hummelstown Hunger Run will take place on Saturday, May 9, at Schaffner Park, located at the corner of Poplar Avenue and Water Street. The run/walk is a fundraising event that benefits the Hummelstown Food Pantry. For additional information or to register or volunteer, visit <https://htownhungerun.wixsite.com/hummelstown5k>

GriefShare Support Group

Derry Presbyterian Church, 248 East Derry Road, Hershey, will host GriefShare, a 13-week seminar and support group, on Mondays from 3:30-5:30 p.m., now through April 13. There is no cost to attend the program, but registration is requested. For more information or to register for the seminar, call the church office at 717-533-9667.

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