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2010

## **Bitter Homes and Gardens**

Laura K. Czys, '10  
*Illinois Wesleyan University*

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Exercise In  
Your Own  
Home

page 15

# Bitter Homes and Gardens

MAY 2009 \$3.49

## *Stealing Flowers*

Simple & Illegal

Old to New  
Makeshift Jewelry

Fun With Condiments



11



17

3



## Ideas

### 3 JAR UP YOUR LIFE

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## Indoors

### 7 THE ART OF ORGANIZATION

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consectet, quate tie volor

### 8 CLEAN FREAK

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### 10 PACK RAT

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## Outdoors

### 11 FIVE FINGER DISCOUNT

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### 12 BRING PUBLIC CHARM TO YOUR PRIVATE SANCTUARY

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## Life and Style

### 13 OLD TO NEW

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## Healthy You

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### 15 EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

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### 16 TREADMILL

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### 16 EATING HEALTHY

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## Family Matters

### 17 UPGRADE THE CHEAP WAY

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### 18 MAKE YOUR OWN...

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### 18 REACH OUT

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### 19 ALL ANGLES

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## Food

### 20 FUN WITH CONDIMENTS

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### 21 FEELING FANCY?

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### 22 CHOOSE WISELY

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## In Every Issue

### 23 LETTERS

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## letters CONNECT WITH US

### FRIENDS WITH ANIMALS

*Even without money, I still find friendship with my happy little kitten Blue Eyes. He keeps my lap warm when its cold and I love him so much in return. I also love to hear him tell me about his day and all of his adventures.*

**Crazy Cat Lady, Los Angeles, CA**



**IN ORDER TO** save money on floor mops, brooms, and dusters, I've decided that it is much more cost efficient to simply use my cat.

After tranquilizing him, I am able to push him across my floors with a stick without any struggle. I never have to replace him, except after 5 or more years when he has passed away, and even then I can get a month of use. Best thing is that he cleans himself regularly, so no washing is necessary!

**Rebecca Smith, Seattle, WA**

**IN YOUR ISSUE** from December there was an article titled "The Night Santa Went Naughty," in which Santa teams up with Comet and tries to avoid having to deliver presents. Even if the story didn't have anything to do with homes or gardens, I found it delightful and I look forward to reading more about Santa's shenanigans next Christmas.

**Ken Horton, Concord, NH**

**AFTER READING** your article on energy consumption, and being fed up with paying high electricity bills, I recently decided to switch every light bulb in my house to those low-watt fluorescent bulbs

that you recommended. I am very happy to say that the next month, my electricity bill dropped by 20%! I was surprised at how much of a difference a simple change like that made. Thank you very much!

**Susan Miller, Little Rock, AR**

**I JUST READ** the letter above this one, and I have to disagree with Ms. Miller. The disadvantage of using low-watt fluorescent bulbs is that the light they give off isn't natural-looking, and that can give rooms a negative energy.

**Carmen Lynn, Louisville, CO**

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**Rebecca Berry, Arcata, CA**

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**Anna Brucculeri, Saint Cloud, MN**

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**Karissa Ball, Titonka, IA**

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**Sara Moss, Belle Fontaine, AL**

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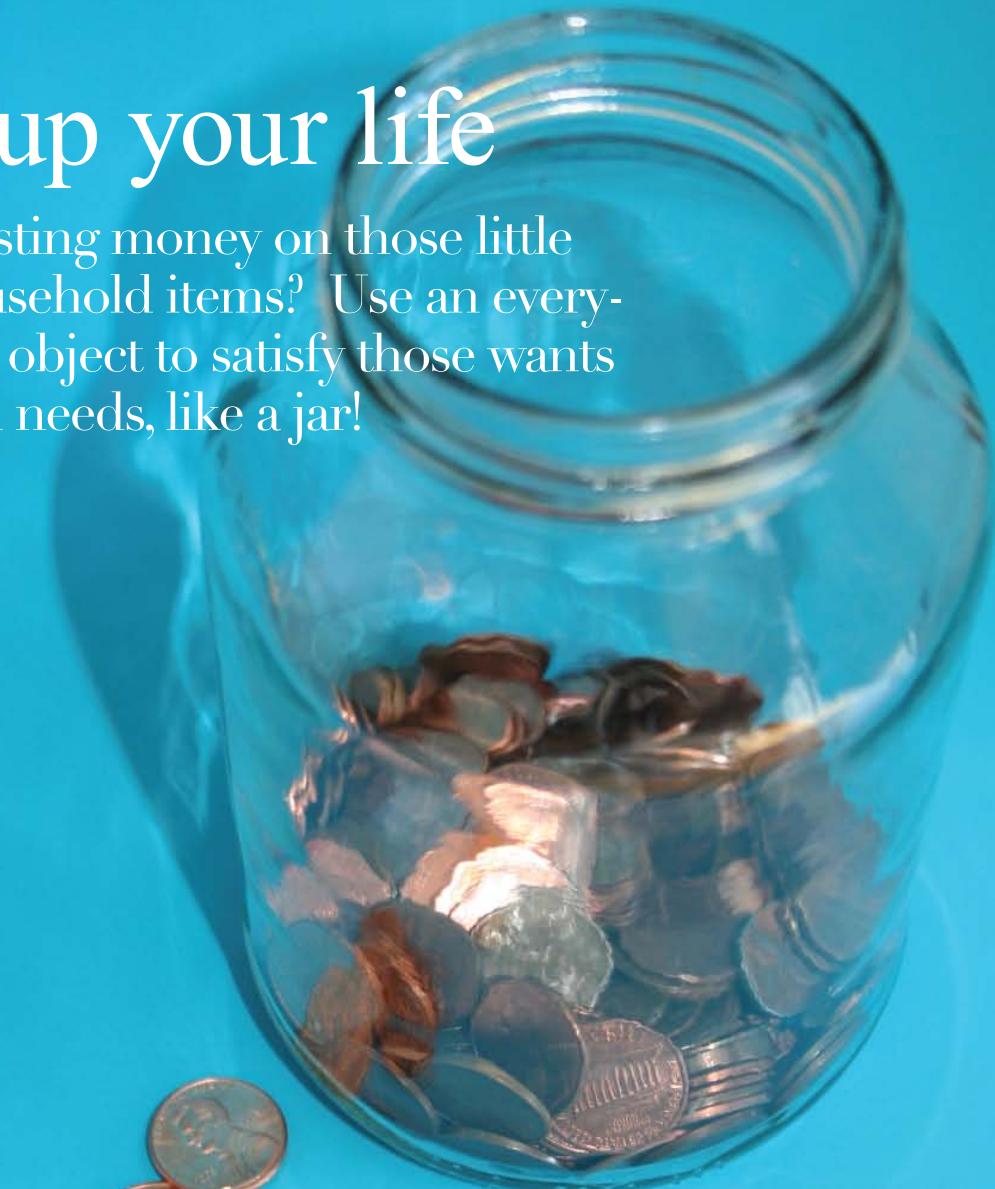
**Erin Stith, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

**LETTERS & COMMENTS** Bitter@HG.com **SUBSCRIPTION HELP** BitterHG.com/service **WRITE** 704 Farnum Rd., New York, NY 10036-4107

# ideas

## Jar up your life

Wasting money on those little household items? Use an everyday object to satisfy those wants and needs, like a jar!



**1. PENNY SAVER**  
Its a piggy bank right out of the refrigerator!



### PREPARATION

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**EACH SERVING:** 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 2 g pro. Daily ValuesL 11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30%iron. Cincilit il et, quat praesequat.

### CHOOSE WISELY

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**EACH SERVING:** 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 2 g pro. Daily ValuesL 11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30%iron.

## CONDIMENT CASSEROLE

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**START TO FINISH:** 40 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

2 bottles of Ketchup  
1 bottle of Dijon Mustard  
½ cup of mayonnaise  
1 package of Ramen  
½ cup of ranch dressing  
½ cup of barbecue sauce  
1 box of noodles, any kind  
4 tsp of milk

### PREPARATION

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**EACH SERVING:** 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 2 g pro. Daily ValuesL 11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30%iron.

## PICKLED PIZZA

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**START TO FINISH:** 25 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

2 Jars of Pickle Relish  
1 bottle of Dijon Mustard  
½ cup of mayonnaise  
4 cups of water  
1 package of Ramen  
2 cups of cheese  
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# ideas | JAR UP YOUR LIFE |



### 2. SET THE TABLE

Set the table with jars! A jar can be a bowl, a glass, a serving dish, and can even be used for left overs! It is a cheap way to get all the dishes you need and also gives your kitcehn a fun theme!

### 3. SHINE SOME LIGHT

Jars can make great homes for candles. Tall or small!

### 4. NEED A PEN?

You can find one in the jar on the counter. Jars can be great organizers.

### 5. WORK OF ART

Need a center piece? No problem! A handful of jars arranged in a fun deisgn, add some flowers and candles and you have a masterpiece!

### 6. HOME SWEET HOME

Use that old sauce jars to home the family pet!

### 7. SWEET TOOTH

Candy dishes are always fun! Put your favorite candy in a jar for those special cravings.

### 8. COOKIE JAR

Go back to the traditional cookie jar!



## RED AND YELLOW SOUP

*Am vulputat, vullan ut ipis nonsendre dio dit lan ex eros num non nummy numsan ex ea faci blandio*

**START TO FINISH:** 15 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 bottles of Ketchup
- 1 bottle of Dijon Mustard
- ½ cup of mayonnaise
- 4 cups of water
- 1 package of Ramen
- dash of pepper taste taste

### PREPARATION

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- Makes 4 servings**

**EACH SERVING:** 334 cal, 10 g fat (10 sat. fat), 111 mg chol, 1102 mg sodium, 20 g carbo, 2 g fiber, 2 g pro. Daily ValuesL 11% vit A, 10% vit C, 2% calcium, 30%iron.

## RADIOACTIVE DIP

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**START TO FINISH:** 5 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup of Ketchup
- 1 cup of Dijon Mustard
- ½ cup of mayonnaise
- ½ cup relish
- veggies, crackers, or bread for dipping

### PREPARATION

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## FEELING FANCY?

### MAKE YOUR OWN KETCHUP!

- INGREDIENTS
- home grown tomoatoes
  - corn syrup
  - vinegar
  - salt
  - onion spice

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# food



## Fun With Condiments

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WHAT'S COOKING	21
CONDIMENTS	21
FEELING FANCY?	21
CHOOSE WISELY	22

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**9. STORING MEMORIES**  
Instead of those high priced frames use a jar to hold your precious memo-ries. The more jars, the more memories!



# ideas

## JAR UP YOUR LIFE



### 10. ADD SOME COLOR

Flowers can always help bring color to the room and why add to that expense? Instead of going to the store, use that old jelly jar that had been taken up space in the recycle bin.

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### SEE ALL THE ANGLES

Have a small family room? Not a problem! With the use of mirrors your small space can be transformed into a great family bonding experience!



# family matters | UPGRADE THE CHEAP WAY |



## REACH OUT

Are you batteries dead again? Feel like you don't have the money to purchase batteries? No need to waste your money, grab a stick from your backyard.



## MAKE YOUR OWN BIG SCREEN

A great way to magnify your experience without maximizing your expenses is to simply pull the binoculars!

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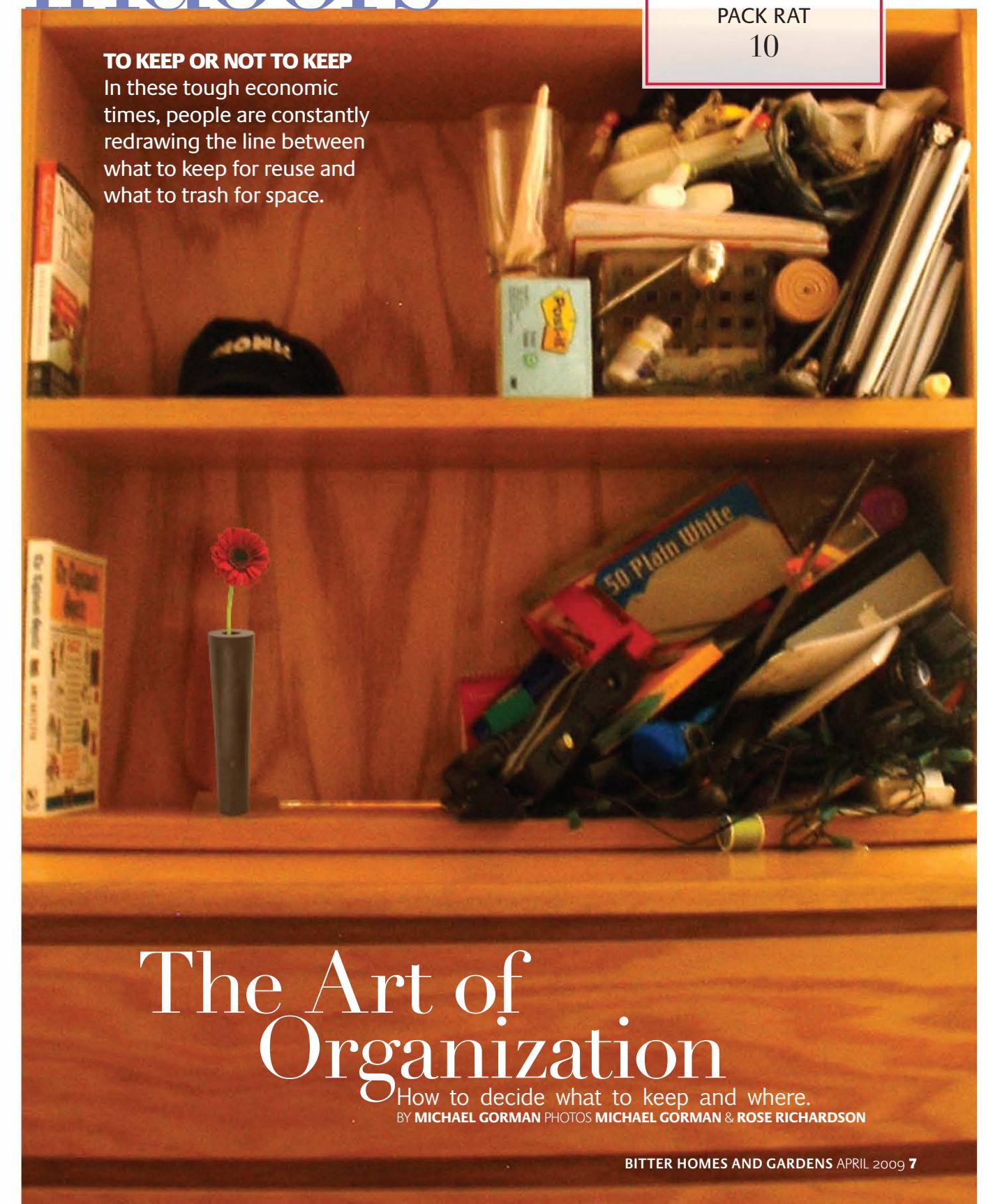
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# indoors

## TO KEEP OR NOT TO KEEP

In these tough economic times, people are constantly redrawing the line between what to keep for reuse and what to trash for space.



CLEAN FREAK

8

PACK RAT

10

# The Art of Organization

How to decide what to keep and where.

BY MICHAEL GORMAN PHOTOS MICHAEL GORMAN & ROSE RICHARDSON

indoors

CLEAN FREAK



# family matters

UPGRADE THE  
CHEAP WAY

17

REACH OUT

18

MAKE YOUR OWN...

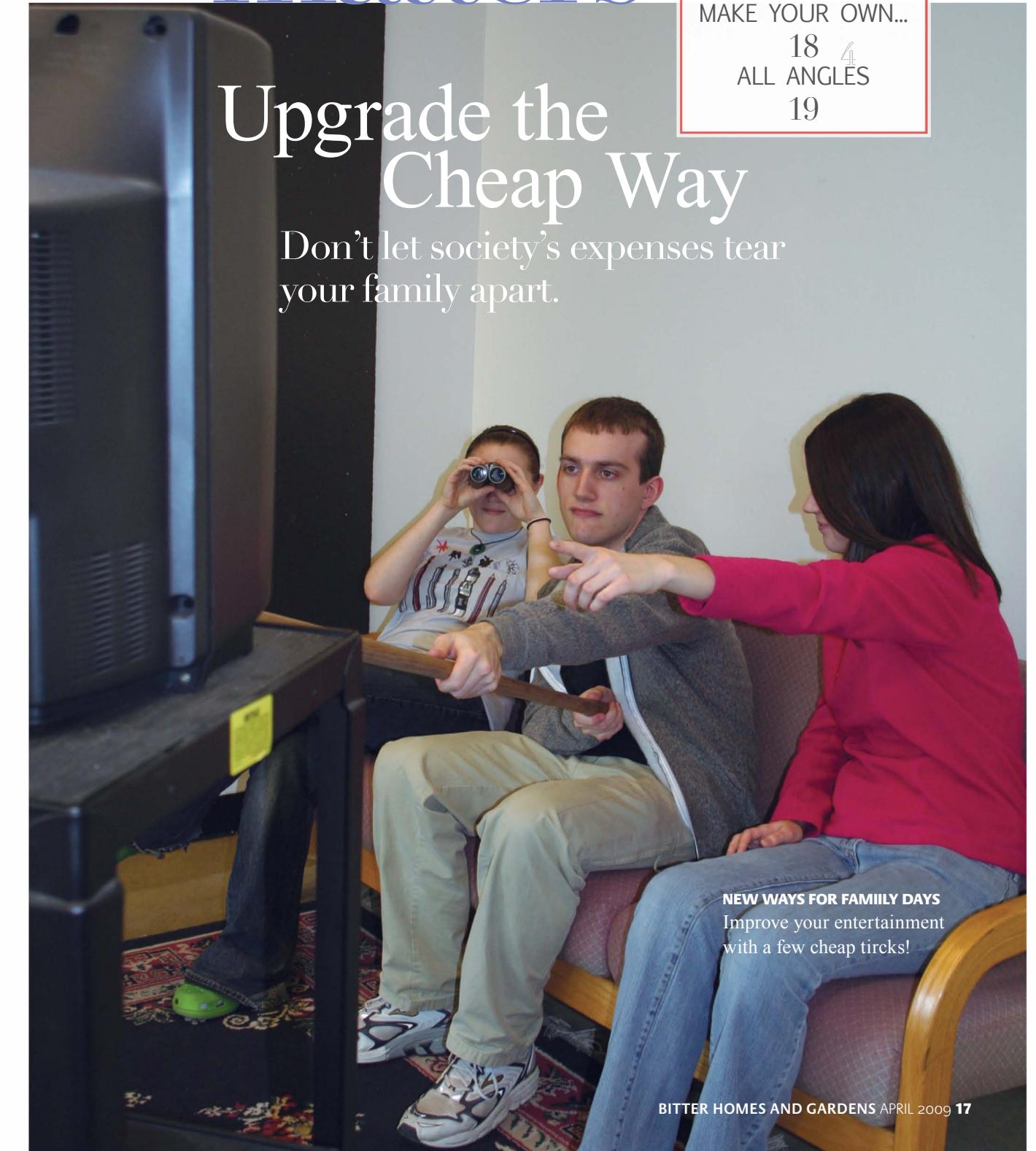
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ALL ANGLES

19

## Upgrade the Cheap Way

Don't let society's expenses tear  
your family apart.



NEW WAYS FOR FAMILY DAYS

Improve your entertainment  
with a few cheap tricks!

# healthy you

FITNESS



## NO CARB DIET

Tree bark and other wild plants are hard for the human body to digest. These make the perfect snack when on a diet, and you can find them in the backyard.

## EXERCISE ATTIRE

Yoga clothes are getting to be too pricy for your budget. Eliminate that cost by wearing clothes you may find by the side of the road. Try to find items that seem gently used. Pre-owned clothes are great for exercising because they are already broken in.

## EASY-TO-AFFORD TREADMILLS

Now that you no longer have expensive exercise equipment, you've got to be more creative! Here's how to use your imagination to own the treadmill of your dreams.

- Start by picking a spot in an open room of the house
- Begin to run in place
- If a family member walks by and asks you what you are doing, simply reply, "I'm clearly using my new treadmill!" This will help you to believe in your illusion



**t**hroughout the ages, there have been debates about the mantra to follow: "reduce, reuse, recycle" or "a cluttered home breeds a cluttered mind." In today's economic climate, we can all be sure of one thing, though: we all need to do what we can to stay afloat in spite of our losses. To some, that means they can't throw anything out, saving even the lowliest breadcrumb lest it be needed in absentia. To others, today is purging time: by getting rid of everything inessential to their survival, they can concentrate better on the most important things in life, from finding a job to organizing their coupons.

In the space pictured to the left, as you can no doubt see, the former CEO has abandoned his life of luxury for a more simplistic existence. Gone are most of his material possessions, leaving only two sets of clothes, a sleeping bag, and a book: "Go Put Your Strengths To Work" by Marcus Buckingham. After his wife of more than thirty years forced him out of their suburban home, he took a temporary job supervising a residence hall at a community college in rural Oklahoma.

# indoors

## PACK RAT



### HARNESSING YOUR INNER CLUTTER MONSTER

These quick steps can make it much easier for anyone to become a class-A pack rat.

- Any time you are about to throw something out, ask yourself this one simple question: does one plus one equal two? If so, don't throw it out.
- If you see your friends or neighbors throwing something out, offer to do it for them. Once they are gone, refer to the previous step.

### SURVIVAL

Turning your home into a metaphorical dumpster does have its advantages: for one, you have everything you'll really need to survive.

### THIS SPACE

This particular space, owned by a famous housekeeping icon with a background of insider trading who asked to remain anonymous due to sheer embarrassment, is a prime example of how much people can collect when they put their minds to it.

# healthy you

## Gym at Home

Now that you have no money for gym memberships, or even gym equipment, you can make use of household items.



### PUMPING IRON-ING BOARD

15-20 reps with your ironing board is the perfect bicep exercise! Just lift with your legs, and not your back. Also, do not try to lift heavier things like the couch.

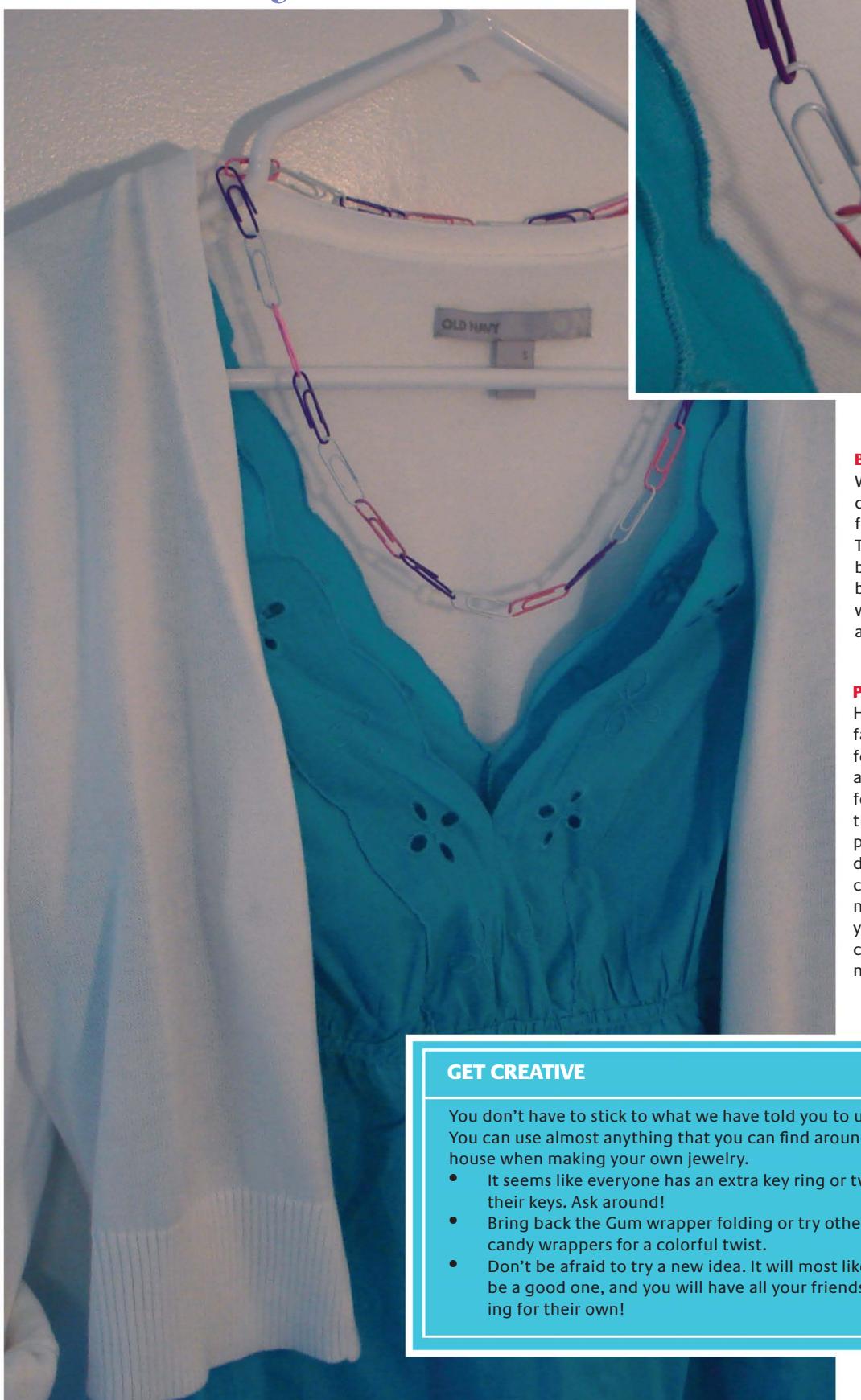
## FITNESS

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EXERCISE EQUIPMENT  
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TREADMILL  
16

EATING HEALTHY  
16



### GET CREATIVE

You don't have to stick to what we have told you to use! You can use almost anything that you can find around the house when making your own jewelry.

- It seems like everyone has an extra key ring or two on their keys. Ask around!
- Bring back the Gum wrapper folding or try other candy wrappers for a colorful twist.
- Don't be afraid to try a new idea. It will most likely be a good one, and you will have all your friends asking for their own!

### BUYING TIPS

When buying paperclips, don't immediately go for the plain silver ones. The colored clips may be a bit more expensive, but it is well worth it when they can double as an accessory!

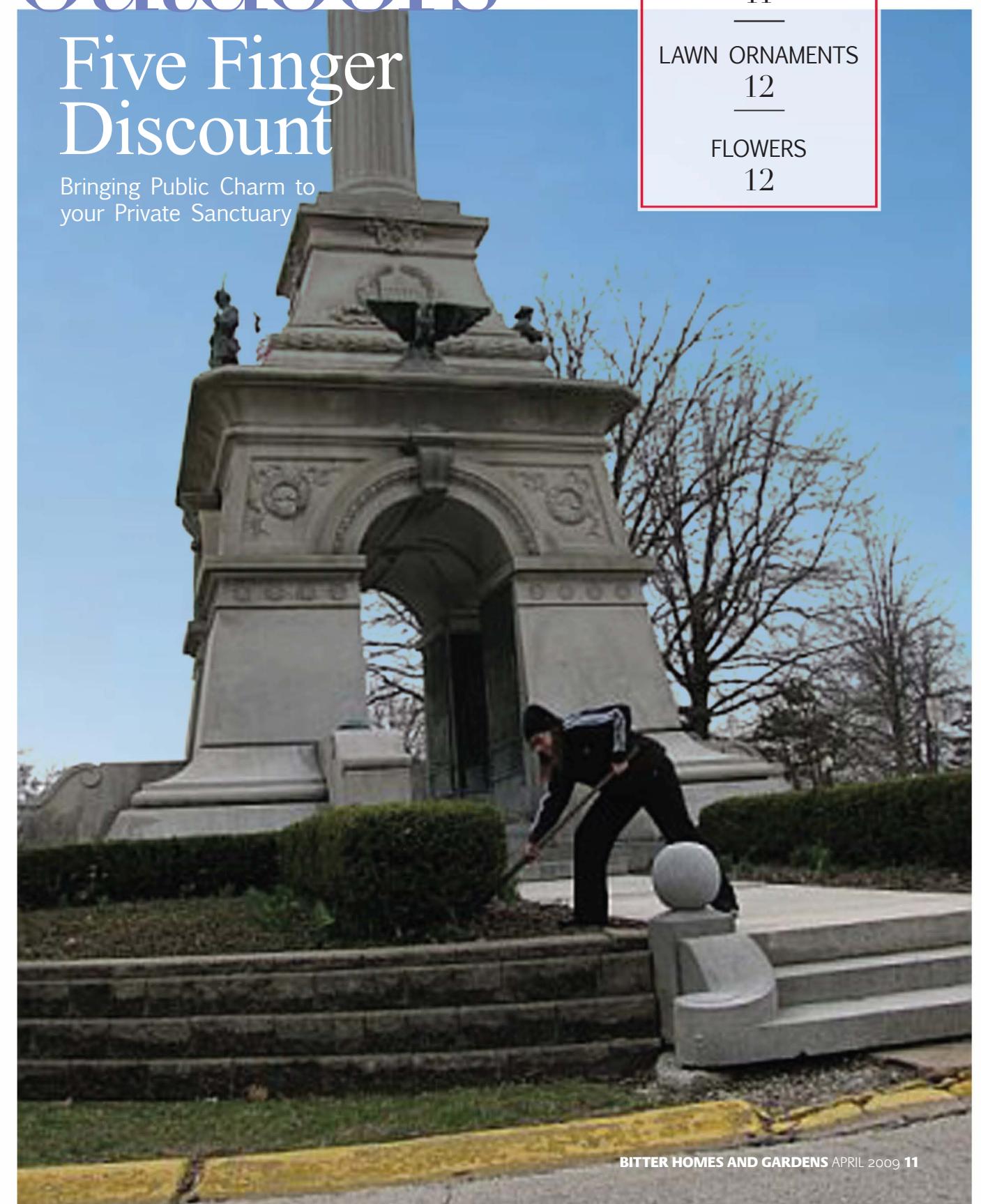
### PAPERCLIP NECKLACE

Hook paperclips in your favorite colors together for a unique multicolored accessory. Change it up for each outfit, and use them for their intended purpose at the end of the day. Try making a long chain, and then when you need a clip at the office, you always have one. You can then just shorten your necklace if need be.

# outdoors

## Five Finger Discount

Bringing Public Charm to  
your Private Sanctuary



### IN THE GARDEN

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### BORROWING

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### LAWN ORNAMENTS

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### FLOWERS

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# outdoors

## IN THE GARDEN



**DIGGING FOR FUN** Churches, School yards, and neighborhood parks are all great places to find beautiful, unique plants, flowers, and lawns ornaments. Just bring your shovel and start digging away. Simply replant them in your own yard.

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# life & style

## Old to New

Ever thought there could be more to your junk? This spring, bring your recyclables into your wardrobe as your own unique, one-of-a-kind accessories.



### Did you know?

When you get tired of your homemade accessories, recycle them! You will do good for the environment, and sometimes you can even get money for them!

### STYLE

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### GET CREATIVE

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### POP CAN TABS

Want to do something unique with your recycling? Take the tabs off of your pop cans and turn them into a one of a kind necklace! String them together using ribbon to match every outfit in your wardrobe. Can't afford all of that ribbon? Make just one with a neutral color to match more outfits!