

Hard work, great employees earn Eberhardt Landscaping national recognition



COURTESY PHOTO

This expansive garden display by Eberhardt Landscaping is part of the Owl Barn Market at Dayton Nurseries in Norton.

When Eberhardt Landscaping of Barberton did a large job for customer, they didn't know it would showcase their work on the cover of Hardscape Magazine, a national publication for the landscaping industry.

The job included about 3,400 square feet of pavers around a pool, about 300 feet of retaining wall wrapped around the pool, a built-in gas grill, a fire place, and other features, such as special lighting. They were contacted by magazine staff and asked some questions, but they did not know what the end result would be.

"We knew we were going to be in the article," company president Bill Eberhardt said. "But we didn't realize we were going to be front cover and they were going to do four or five pages on it."

In 22 years of business Eberhardt Landscaping has built a reputation of listening to the customer and delivering what they need.

"We have some great employees that have a lot of experience," Eberhardt said, adding that what's great about their company is that the employees each have strengths in particular areas which they use to help each other out.

Brad Wilson's strength is the hardscape projects, which as the name implies, include lots of stone and concrete work. The projects can vary from lawn main-

tenance to large scale landscaping.

"It really depends on the customer," Wilson said. "We try to meet the customer's needs."

Usually a customer will have an idea or have seen something they want to see a variation of. That's the jump off point for Wilson and others to come up with suggestions and sketches showing what can be done.

As can be expected, spring is their busiest time. Projects with an emphasis on plants usually start to slow down in July and August due to the hot weather and not getting a lot of rainfall. It is typically a good time for someone to call about a hardscape job.

During the main season, they have between 18 and 19 employees. That drops to about 10 during the winter as they switch to snow removal, unless it's a mild winter and they can work some projects in.

Eberhardt said a neat thing about the company is the average employee has been there 10 years, instead of the industry average of two years.

"We keep good people and that's what makes this company tick," Eberhardt said.

"Our guys treat the property they're on like it was their own home, which really goes towards the quality of the project," Wilson said. "They always think about it from a homeowner's point of view."

City of Barberton hydrant flushing on East Side

The city of Barberton is finishing the flushing of hydrants in the East Side area and will begin the Austin Estates area this week. Hydrants will be flushed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.

The water will be safe to drink even though there may be some

discoloration. Residents should check the water before doing laundry.

If you have any questions, contact the Utilities Department between 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at 330-753-0328 or 330-848-6720.

Norton High School teachers attend statewide energy education workshop

Norton High School teachers Julie Snyder, Shelley Christoff, and Regina Kovac recently completed a two-day science teacher workshop at Marietta College, along with colleagues from all over Ohio. The workshop included classroom, hands-on activities and a field trip. It has been offered for the past 12 years, but is especially resonant this year, which is the 150th anniversary of the first commercial well drilled in the Buckeye state.

The workshop was designed to enhance

energy literacy by connecting science education and Ohio's natural gas and crude oil industry. All teachers were eligible to receive credits toward their continuing education requirement, and could opt to receive graduate credits from Ashland University. The workshop was sponsored by the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP).

The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program is a non-profit

statewide public outreach program. The mission of OOGEEP is to facilitate educational, scholarship, safety and training programs; to promote public awareness about the industry, and to demon-

Senior Center Card Party

The Northwest Senior Center is having a card party on Wednesday Aug. 25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. You may play any kind of cards, or board game. The cost is \$15 a person, which includes lunch. For more information or to make a reservation, call the center at 330-854-6307.

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