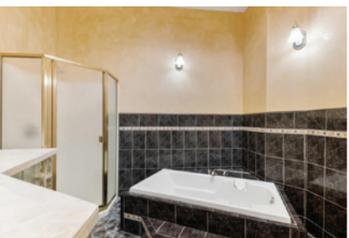


REAL ESTATE SECTION



Property Feature **1041 South Main Street, Willits**

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Offered for sale at:
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by Todd Schapmire

of W Real Estate - Lic: 01414195

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Beautifully updated Mediterranean style home on a private 0.63-acre lot walking distance to shopping and all the amenities Willits has to offer. Spacious 2,400 square-foot home has two large bedrooms with the possibility of converting to a third bedroom. You'll love the elegant custom finishes, updated kitchen, and natural light.

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Companion planting

I'm growing two gardens. My small veggie garden has been very productive. I've already canned sweet and dill pickles, and pickled peppers. Every evening I pick kale for salad. My tomatoes are over 6 feet tall, so I'll be making tomato sauce again. I'm directing a play and designing the set. "LUV," that will open next spring - April 2022. That's the other garden. A play is a process that can easily take months or a year. I begin the play with the script - the soil - then plant the seeds. The seeds germinate in the director's thoughts as he or she begins to see the play in their imagination.



Bill Barksdale
Columnist

Perhaps you don't think you are a creator but you are. Moment to moment you are always creating your life. As Mr. Emerson alluded, it's the thought that counts. I think about what I want to grow. I prepare the soil, not unlike preparing one's own mind with thoughts and "beliefs," then I plant what I want to grow there - and I tend that garden by watering it.

Read the rest of **Barksdale** | Over on Page RE4



Above, from left: Carrots can be hard to sprout, especially in warm weather when the soil dries out fast. Soaking the seed for 8 hours makes them sprout faster and better. Dill is great to have in the garden for use in salads, cooking, pickling, and as a beneficial insect attractor. Fennel is another Italian specialty that is easy to grow now. It is great braised with meat, added to pasta sauce, or as a crunchy dipper like celery. Chicory and endive are Italian winter specialties. This "Pala Rosa" could be on your Thanksgiving table if you start it this month. Bok choy is as beautiful as it is easy. At right, from top: If you want to grow lots and lots of food, grow rutabagas. Love-in-a-mist will sprout and grow as the soil cools and the nights get longer. Its blue flowers and balloon-like seedpods make great cut flowers, while the edible seeds are used in cookies and breads. Cornflowers (aka bachelor's buttons) are a good bet for fall gardens. Bees and beneficials are attracted to the blue color and the nectar they produce in quantity.

COLUMN | Garden Tip of the Month

August: The late summer garden

This is the best time to start seedlings for fall. The choice is wide - broccoli, cabbages, Brussels sprouts, kale, peas, parsnips, rutabagas, carrots, beets, mustard, fennel, turnips, endives, lettuce, and the many Asian greens like napa cabbage and bok choy.

Jamie Chevalier
Columnist

All of them need time to mature before cold weather. Once winter comes, they will survive and make meals for months, but they won't grow much. Start them in pots or in a small section of your garden. You don't need much space to start; they can be transplanted in a month into spots now occupied by bush beans or other summer crops.

Speaking of summer crops, they may be getting a bit out of hand. It's hard to keep up with garden chores in the heat. Every year I have some things that succeed and others that are disasters. Here's how to bring it into focus, accomplish the key tasks, cut your losses, and move on.

I suggest you start by going out and sitting in the garden. Get out your notebook, phone, or whatever, and make a list. Sort things into six categories:

1. Things you are enjoying that are looking good.
2. Things that have done well, but are fading a bit - zucchini that is slacking off and getting mildew for example. Tomatoes with blossom end rot, scruffy pole beans with some weird leaf issue....
3. Things that are pretty much finished - bush beans with just a few beans left, or bolting lettuce.
4. Things that never really did much or you didn't like.
5. Things that are out of hand and making you feel guilty.
6. Empty spots where you harvested and didn't replant.

Now, you already have a plan: numbers 3, 4, 5, and 6 are where your fall garden is going to be (or cover crops, or mulch). Cut your losses and move on. We'll deal with them later. Items #1 on your list are doing OK and might just need some compost one of these days. Items #2 are where you concentrate your efforts. This is the part of the garden that will fail without help, but is in good enough shape that your help won't be in vain. Chances are, your #2 areas are suffering from one of three main late-summer problems. First, there's nutrient depletion. Any plant that produces over a long season, like zucchini, pole beans, okra, peppers, chard, or cucumbers can

use a snack about now.

If your plants are looking yellow, and production is slacking off, give them a side-dressing of compost, alfalfa meal, or earthworm castings. Or make a nutrient tea with compost, grass clippings, or weeds. Plants that are bearing fruit, like tomatoes, peppers, beans, and eggplant, need a lot of calcium and magnesium. Check for signs of deficiencies and remedy them.

Second, is weeds. Especially in a drought year, competition weakens plants and leads to more problems.

Third, check for sap-sucking insects. These are so tiny that they often can't be seen as individuals. But you can see the damage they do: leaves that are silvery, stippled, or spotted on the underside where they have sucked the juice out.

Remove lower leaves of tomato vines, which usually provide a ladder up from the soil for these pests. Mulch to minimize soil splashing on the plants.

Surround plants with small-flowered herbs and flowers like alyssum, dill, cilantro, fennel, thyme and oregano, which draw predator insects to eat your pests. If you have a bad infestation and need to spray, use compost tea or enzyme sprays that will not hurt the predator bugs - it's easy to start a vicious circle with sprays.

Now you can deal with areas that

were #3, 4, 5, and 6 on your list. Turn off the irrigation and either pull or hoe or mulch the weeds. Or just cover it all with a tarp. If you start those fall veggies in pots now, the weeds under the tarp will be dead by time your transplants are ready to go in. Or you will have the ground prepared for cover crops to improve your soil over the winter.

About mid-August, the longer nights start to make a difference in the garden. Plants stop looking so heat-stressed, and may start to grow or bloom again. Seeds sprout more easily. It's an opportunity to make a new start, and who isn't ready for a fresh start?

Jamie Chevalier lives and gardens near Willits. She has gardened professionally in Alaska and California and taught gardening in schools, as well as living in a remote cabin and commercial fishing. She wrote the *Bountiful Gardens catalog from 2009 to 2017, and is now the proprietor of Quail Seeds, www.quailseeds.com.*

Photos by Jamie Chevalier



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West Center offers free 'Emergency Preparation' webinar for businesses

Submitted by West Business Development Center

The West Business Development Center is offering a series of free webinars designed to provide information and training helpful for both new and experienced business owners. This "Emergency Preparation: How To Protect Your Business Before It's Too Late" webinar was offered on August 10, and is open for registration for the September date, Wednesday, September 8 from 12 to 1:30 pm. Visit <https://www.westcenter.org/live-workshops> for more information, the schedule, and how to view past webinars.

Fire season and the potential for public safety power shutoffs is upon us again. And this year the drought, coming at the tail end of the pandemic, has raised the level of risk even further. At West Center we know that emergency preparedness is an important part of any business plan. To address this important need, we're offering this 90-minute training along with a 56-page digital workbook. Anyone who attends our "Emergency Preparation for your Business" workshop also receives 10+ hours of free one-on-one consultation with an advisor.

Our Emergency Preparation workshop will help your business get organized and be better prepared. You will get all the necessary tools to develop a plan to weather the unexpected and keep your business operational during power outages and any other sudden environmental changes that may occur.

Attendees will come away from this workshop with a concrete plan for:

- Keeping documents safe
- Emergency and crisis planning for your employees
- Proper insurance coverage
- Asset valuation
- Understanding local, state and federal resources
- Preparing for public safety power shutoffs (PSPS)

This workshop is taught by Rachel Clark, a regular instructor for Mendocino's Small Business Development Center and Mendocino's Women's Business Center. She has worked as a Business Coach for 17 years, helping clients transform their businesses and increase property. Using her formal education in Marketing and Economics (coupled with years of experience in Executive Recruiting), Rachel helps clients ready to work on their leadership and business skills.

Visit <https://www.westcenter.org/live-workshops> for more information about upcoming webinars.



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Curb appeal on a budget

This is a great time to sell your house. Prices are up and interest rates are still low enough to attract plenty of eager buyers. You may have heard the expression, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." Well, this is true for real estate, too. So, to put your property at the top of a homebuyer's wish list, consider its curb appeal, that is, how attractive your property looks from the outside. Little changes can have a big impact.



Richard Selzer
Columnist

Even without a drought, nice-looking landscaping can be tough to maintain. If you don't have time for yard maintenance, simply remove dead plants; put in native, drought-resistant ones and let nature take care of itself. For a pop of color, place a few bright, flowering annuals in pots on your porch.

If potential buyers are scheduled to view your property, make sure you trim the bushes, mow the lawn (if you still have one), weed, rake leaves, sweep the sidewalks and driveway, hide trash cans, and remove any lawn art that wouldn't have broad appeal. You may love those little gnomes, but not everyone would.

If you want even more curb appeal, consider power washing your house. I warn you that a power washer in the wrong hands (like mine) can do serious damage – like blow holes in concrete – so be careful. Used appropriately, however, power washers can remove dust, dirt and cobwebs to make sidewalks sparkle and siding look like new.

Speaking of sparkle, clean windows make a nice difference inside and out. You don't have to buy expensive glass cleaner to do the job. I use TSP. It's cheap and can be used to clean many surfaces (it's great for removing soot from a fireplace). A word to the wise about washing windows: wash them when they are shaded. Sunlight will dry your windows instantly and whatever is in the water will leave streaks all over your windows.

If you skip the power washer, you may want to get a soft brush (one that mounts on a pole for second-story windows) to remove cobwebs and dirt.

If you have the time and money to take

things up a notch, I recommend painting. If you're on a budget, simply paint the house trim, shutters and front door. Don't be afraid to use an accent color that makes windows and doors stand out. If your front door is natural wood, be sure it's in good condition. You may need to strip off the old finish, then re-stain and re-seal it. If your siding is peeling and you can afford to paint the whole house, it is well worth the expense.

If you want real estate agents (and others, say, emergency responders) to be able to find your house, be sure the house numbers are visible from the street. Put them on your mailbox and on your house.

Good lighting also helps. Solar-powered lights are inexpensive and add a nice bit of ambience as the sun sets. Mendo Mill has wall sconces and lawn lights, as well as friendly employees who can help you figure out what you need.

If you already have sconces, remove bugs that have surely accumulated there and clean the glass. If you choose to replace your sconces, be sure they have the same mounting system as your current ones, or your cheap sconces become very expensive because an electrician will be required to make them work.

If you have patio furniture on your front porch, replace sun-faded cushions and make sure the porch doesn't feel crowded. Just like on the interior, you can probably remove half of the furniture and you'll still have plenty left.

I know of buyers who have driven up to a house for sale and decided not to get out of the car to view the interior simply based on how the outside looked. Good curb appeal can be the difference between a quick sale and no sale.

If you have questions about real estate or property management, contact me at rselzer@selzerrealty.com. If you have ideas for this column, let me know. (If I use your suggestion in a column, I'll send you a \$25 gift card to Roland's Bistro!) If you'd like to read previous articles, visit <https://selzerrealty.com/> and click on "How's the Market?"

Dick Selzer is a real estate broker who has been in the business for more than 45 years.

The rest of **Barksdale** | From Page RE2

feeding it, weeding out what I don't want, and taking good care of the things that I want to thrive.

You are what you think. Your mind is virtually a garden really. What you think about, put your attention on – you tend to move toward.

As an example, when I'm working on a play, it's always in the back of my mind. I may see an image, and I think, "That would make a good setting for the play," so that goes into my creation. I may see someone behaving in a way that gets my attention and I think, "That's how one of my characters would behave," so that goes into my notes, an idea to suggest to an actor when we begin rehearsals. Actors are all about behavior and reacting.

A child is a tender young seedling. If they feel safe and have an inspiring and supportive teacher or parent, they learn the basic tools that will help them figure out how to be their own unique self. Something excites and inspires them. Everyone's different and has something all their own to offer. The creative process is at work. It's not only the ABC's, math or science; it's also about how to feed those things in one's imagination to "grow" one's own life.

What a concept! You learn to take responsibility, to decide what you want your life to be – not unlike a garden. What do you plant? What is a "weed" thought that you can let go of because it's not where you want to go?

We're always planting that garden – that garden of the mind. "LUV" isn't the first play I've thought about and directed, it's one of many. Each time I have to start over. In business, each client I worked with was a new start, a new set of circumstances and goals.

Business is like that. There's always a challenge – something to solve so a need is filled. In business, what does the client need? It's the business person's job to find a way to help fulfill that need. Some possible solutions don't work, so they get weeded out. Some things help fill the need and that's the direction you go.

Life is like this. It's also true that what you want can sometimes change. In fact that's pretty normal. Change is a constant. What a man or woman or child thinks about is the direction they go. Positive reinforcement helps one move in a rewarding direction. "You're doing a good job." "Let's try again." "I like the way you did that." "That felt good." How the heck do you figure it out?

Anita Moorjani, in her inspiring book, "Dying To Be Me," said, "Day-to-day problems never seem as big when viewed through a veil of humor and love." Thomas Edison invented much of our modern world. He never had a failure. He once said, "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." I love that! He was an inspired gardener.

Why are the arts just as important as ABC's, math and science? Because the arts train your mind to free-up, to discover solutions and help build self-confidence. Unlocking your imagination is the key to creativity and problem-solving. The challenge is to turn off the "judging voice." Whose voice is that anyway, an unsupportive parent or teacher, someone else? That voice discourages creative growth.

Solving problems is a mixed bag of things, some work and some don't. The things that don't work are the weeds you discard. If you plant weeds (harmful thoughts), you'll get weeds. How do you know what's a weed? The weed doesn't really feel right or truthful. It doesn't move you toward your goal. It's always your choice of course.

I have to "see" in my imagination where the action of the play happens before I can move on. When cast and crew become involved, it becomes a family, a creative family, all striving to realize the director's vision. The director is the gardener. The members of the audience are the final element of any play. Hopefully, each one will be nourished in some way by their experience with the play.

Our play will be our garden. The veggie garden gets weeded, bugs and pests removed. The bounty is slowly maturing with good care. My two gardens are growing. Every garden is different. I'm always excited to see how each will grow. There are so many possibilities.

Read more of Bill's columns at his blog at BBarksdale.com.



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For information or an appointment to view please call:
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CalBRE: 00990817
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557 South Main Street • Willits



Tara Moratti
CalBRE #01420657
707-367-0389
livinmendo@gmail.com



Roxanne Lemos-Neese
CalBRE #01712217
707-484-6489
roxanne@getmendohomes.com



Kelsi Ryan
CalBRE #01932829
707-621-1818
mendorealestate@gmail.com



Lee Persico
CalBRE #00446837
707-459-5389
coldwellbankerwillits@gmail.com



Dara Collicott
CalBRE #02062954
707-513-7825
daradrealty@gmail.com



Randa Craighead
CalBRE #01971901
707-841-7778
randa.craighead@coldwellbanker.com



Karena Jolley
CalBRE #01482063
707-354-2999
karena.jolley@gmail.com



Nicole Flamer
CalBRE #01932844
707-354-2301
nic707@gmail.com



Audrey Low
CalBRE #02074437
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COLDWELL BANKER MENDO REALTY

Private 1900 +/- sq. ft. home located in Brooktrails with quiet end-of-road seclusion.

On a clear day the ocean is visible from the expansive deck and living room. Upstairs features an open floor plan, oak kitchen, 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. Downstairs has a partial kitchen, 1 additional bedroom and bath, with its own entrance. This layout provides the possibility for additional income. The backyard includes a chicken coop, raised garden beds and shed for wood storage.

\$389,000

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Tara Moratti
Broker-Associate
CalBRE #01420657
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