

# Fresh from the Garden



## JANUARY EVENTS

### New Year's Day

January 1

### Employee Discount Days

January 2 & 3

### Free Seminar: Arranging Fresh Flowers + Hands-on Workshop

Clinton Township,  
Dearborn Heights, Royal Oak,  
West Bloomfield  
January 4 – 1pm

### Kid's Club: Open House

All Stores  
January 11 – 10am-2pm

### Free Seminar: Growing Microgreens & Herbs Indoors

All Stores  
January 11 – 1pm

### Employee Discount Days

January 16 & 17

### Free Seminar: Decorating with Plants

All Stores  
January 18 – 1pm

### Creations & Cocktails: Air Plant Macramé

All Stores  
January 18 – 2:30pm

### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 20

### Adopt A House Plant

All Stores  
January 25 & 26 – 10am-4pm



## OBSERVATIONS

by John Darin, President



Happy New Year to everyone. We have a wonderful year ahead of us! To ensure 2020 is the best year yet for English Gardens, it is important to start off on the right foot.

Revisit your routines. Reflect on any training gaps that you experienced last Spring. Utilize the Success training cards for your area. Consider the cross-training opportunities that can occur during some of our slower winter months.

The more you know, the easier your job will be come Spring.

We are in a unique business of changing our stores from season to season to a fresh new look in all departments. We break down Christmas and focus on the livelihood that comes with warmer weather and the Spring planting and project business awaiting us. As we begin to transform our footprint from Christmas to Spring, our focus must remain on working safe and working smart. The goal is a clean transition, where departments are transformed without impacting the customers' shopping experience. Our customers look forward to seeing all of the new products we have to offer; they enjoy coming in to our stores for the scents of Spring and seek the knowledge of our associates. Let's ensure another great transition to the next season.

Thank you for all of your hard work during the Christmas selling season.

Cheers to a prosperous new year!

*John Darin*



# EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES

Years of Service	Employee Name	
------------------	---------------	--

## MANAGERS

54	Linda Yugovich	MO
40	Rick Vespa	MO
12	Michael Grundman	ACO
1	Patrica Small	PN

## ASSOCIATES

16	Sally (Sara) Miller	RO
10	Valerie Tarquini	PONLC
3	Juan Andeade	PONLC
3	Emmie Hayes	EP
3	Erin James	DB
1	Suzanne Bazner	PN
1	Pamela Dewitt	ACO
1	Amy Goodwin	PN
1	Kyle Hibdon	PONLC
1	Michelle Pardue	PNLC

# SAFETY *It's Everyone's Business*

## WINTER SLIP, TRIP & SAFETY TIPS



It's near that time of season where slips, trips and falls occur at an increasing number.

### Prevention

- Wear the proper foot gear.
- Take small steps to keep your center of balance under you.
- Walk slowly and never run on icy ground.
- Keep both hands free for balance, rather than in your pockets.
- Use handrails from start to finish.
- Avoid carrying loads on stairways; or carry loads that you can see over.
- Keep you eyes on where you are going.
- Test potentially slick areas by tapping your foot on them.
- Step - Don't jump from vehicles and equipment.
- Keep walkways clear of debris, water, ice and slippery materials.

When these helpful hints don't work, and you know you are going to slip, try to reduce your potential injury when falling by:

- Roll with the fall. Try to twist and roll backwards, rather than falling forward.
- Relax as much as possible when you begin to fall.
- Toss the load you are carrying. Protect yourself instead of the objects being carried.

### Winter Walking

One category that frequently results in lost time and affects a considerable number of employees is slips, trips and falls. This subject is particularly important during the winter months when many exterior walking surfaces are wet and/or slippery.

A few simple precautions can help reduce your chances of being injured from a slip and fall.

- Use floor mats to remove moisture from the soles of your shoes upon enter a building.
- Don't allow rain that has collected on your umbrella to be deposited on indoor walking surfaces.
- Avoid inclines and slippery walking surfaces if possible.
- Be aware of your footing and any potential slip, trip or fall hazard that may be present.
- Select appropriate footwear. Remember that no shoe sole material is perfect under all conditions. Shoes soles made of hard plastic or leather and high-heeled shoes are less than ideal, especially during wet weather.
- Report slip, trip and fall hazards.
- Use a handrail where available.

## Tell Us About It

**Dearborn Heights-** My sister and I bought a Christmas tree yesterday afternoon, and Jake Merna who helped us was just amazing. It's rare to see that level of customer service anymore, and he's so good at it! I think he said this was his first job, which makes it even more amazing. He's a natural!

**West Bloomfield-** Gale made me the most beautiful Christmas display! I enjoyed working with her. Kudos!

**Clinton Township-** Michelle, Sam and Ann are very professional, thoughtful and accommodating. Jim and John were also helpful and kind.

**Eastpointe-** Kionna is a feather in your company's hat!

**Royal Oak-** Amy is amazing!! I am a great customer of E.G but never bought cut flowers here until I met Amy. She goes out of her way to get exactly what I am asking for. She is friendly, knowledgeable and an outstanding help!

**Plymouth-** MaryAnn who works in indoor plants was patient and knowledgeable, helpful and considerate as we made decisions about our purchase. Thank you!

**Landscape-** Everyone I met on my job was exceptional. Stephanie's designs were beautiful and included everything on my wish list. Paul and crew were fast, quiet, courteous and efficient!



# SELL FOR SUCCESS

## 6 Clean-Air Plants for Your Home

*Houseplants that do double duty clearing out pollutants in your indoor air*

Projects like installing new carpet and painting walls can release chemicals that pollute indoor air. Luckily, some houseplants moonlight as efficient purifiers. For the best results, put as many plants that clean the air as you can care for in the rooms you use most. That means you'll want at least two plants (in 10- to 12-inch pots) per 100 square feet of space; if you're in the middle of major renovations, aim for more plants.

One tip: Be sure not to overwater, as too much soil moisture can lead to mold growth. Below are smart options you can suggest to your customers that are looking to clean the air in their own homes.

**1. English Ivy:** This hearty, climbing vine thrives in small spaces. It also fares well in rooms with few windows or little sunlight. **How it Helps:** Its dense foliage excels at absorbing formaldehyde—the most prevalent indoor pollutant—which shows up in wood floorboard resins and synthetic carpet dyes.

**2. Peace Lily:** Among the few air purifiers that flower, the peace lily adapts well to low light but requires weekly watering and is poisonous to pets. **How it Helps:** This year-round bloomer rids the air of the VOC benzene, a carcinogen found in paints, furniture wax, and polishes. It also sucks up acetone, which is emitted by electronics, adhesives, and certain cleaners.

**3. Lady Palm:** An easy-to-grow, tree-like species, the lady palm may take a while to start shooting upward. But once it does, its fan-like patterned leaves will add charm to any spot. **How it Helps:** Easy on the eyes, this plant targets ammonia, an enemy of the respiratory system and a major ingredient in cleaners, textiles, and dyes.



**4. Snake Plant:** Also known as mother-in-law's tongue, this sharp-leaved plant thrives in low light. At night it absorbs carbon dioxide and releases oxygen (a reversal of the process most plants undergo). Pot a couple and put them in your bedroom for a slight oxygen boost while you sleep. **How it Helps:** In addition to helping lower carbon dioxide, the snake plant rids air of formaldehyde and benzene.

**5. Golden Pothos:** This fast-growing vine has a reputation for flexibility. You can pot it with something to support it, plant it in a hanging basket, or train it to climb a trellis. Dark green leaves with golden streaks and marbling make it an eye-catching addition to a home or office. **How it Helps:** Like many other vines, it tackles formaldehyde, but golden pothos also targets carbon monoxide and benzene. Consider placing one in your mudroom or entryway, where car exhaust fumes heavy in formaldehyde are most likely to sneak indoors from the garage.

**6. Spider Plant:** A good option for beginning gardeners, the spider plant reproduces quickly, growing long, grassy leaves as well as hanging stems, which eventually sprout plantlets—hence its arachnid-inspired name. **How it Helps:** Put a spider plant on a pedestal or in a hanging basket close to a sunlit window and you'll benefit from fewer airborne formaldehyde and benzene molecules.

## Benefits Corner for Employees

### Straight from the Suggestion Box

Did you know that songs can be removed from the store music playlist? Simply email Jennifer, at [JYoungquest@englishgardens.com](mailto:JYoungquest@englishgardens.com). Include your store, the song name and the time it plays and it will be removed as soon as possible!

Please continue to utilize the Suggestion Boxes in your location to share your opinion of anything that could better the business or your store/team. And as always, you can contact Human Resources directly: Nicole at (586) 233-5691 or [nphillips@englishgardens.com](mailto:nphillips@englishgardens.com) Landscape suggestions can be sent directly to [Kbleakley@englishgardens.com](mailto:Kbleakley@englishgardens.com) or (248)758-8581.



### Congratulations

to Leah DeBene and her fiancé, Neill for the wonderful bundle of joy they received at 1:10PM on Thanksgiving Day!!!

Mom and Baby are both happy and healthy and ecstatically in love.



### Caiden James Quinn

Born 11/28/2019 @ 1:10 pm.  
6 lbs 1 oz, 19" long

# Make a Fresh Start



January is when everyone is shifting from holiday mode back to normal routines and schedules. This is also a time when many of us are looking to implement change in our lives – through New Year's resolutions or other promises and commitments we've made to ourselves and loved ones.

For me, January is the perfect time to refocus on our wellness goals and take advantage of the "fresh start" feeling that comes along with a new year.

As you know, one of the most popular resolutions Americans make is to lose weight and improve their health – mentally and physically. Accomplishing this goal could mean losing weight, exercising more, eating better, making more money, quitting smoking and drinking, or just doing whatever makes you a happier and healthier person.

At WW, we believe healthy living isn't only about losing weight, but it's about feeling good, being happy and sociable and improving your overall quality of life.

*If you are looking for ways to make a fresh start in your life in 2020, here are a few simple tips to help you along the way:*

- **Get Support.** Connecting with other people who are working toward the same goals as you are can help you stay motivated, inspired and accountable. WW holds weekly workshops to support members who want to live healthier lifestyles. Our WW coaches have lost weight and learned how to eat healthier. They are here to support you throughout your journey.
- **Stock your kitchen with healthy food choices.** Trade in sugary drinks and snacks for healthy, in-season fruits and vegetables. Studies show when you eat healthy, you tend to feel better about yourself, have more energy, lose weight and exercise more often.
- **Move more.** Exercise offers so many benefits. You will not only look better, but you also will feel better. Look for ways to increase your activity, even if it's just 30 minutes a day. Consistency is important.

- Love, love, love,  
*Florine Mark*

## NEWS from the Landscape Company "Professionals Doing Extraordinary Work"

We made it! The holiday rush is over! Let's all take the time now to enjoy the off season.

Now that we are in January, we will be spending the month taking down the amazing holiday projects we installed both inside and outside. Did you know that EG landscaping had over 100 holiday customers in 2019? That's a lot!

We are working hard on winter projects including planning building renovations, software updates and even starting to work on designs and quotes for spring. It's a great time to encourage customers to start thinking early about landscaping and holiday projects.



Village of Rochester Hills Santa SNUG 2019

Special thanks to Ann Cini, Ann Reimer, Annette Ferris, Amy Goodwin, Bob Walker, Bonnie Thorp, Brett Harvey, Christopher Scott, Christine Forton, Ciara Forbers, Cori Lademan, Colleen Klaus, Colleen Sullivan, David Gruenawald, Debbie Matthews, Erin James, Erin Harvey, Eric Stanis, Gale Payne, Greg Pizzino, Jackie Cronic, Kim Milewski, Karen Carducci, Jodi Ghedotte, Jordan Vanek, Jordyn Bronstein, John Baur, Jill Clissold, Jenn Richards, Kim Welch, Laura Milliken, Lauren Rose, Lori Tempest, Lori Heiden, Leah Debene, Leigh Pierson, Lisa Drew, Lia Irizarry, Lynda Phillips, MacKenzie Stephans, Margaret Hammond, Matt Draper, Michelle Wieferrich, Mary Ann Nisley, Mary Sabatini, Marie Goforth, Naomi Rudolph, Nina Welch, Patti Small, Rebecca Menger, Renee Molnar, Rosie Fraga, Sarah Miller, Sara Earl, Suzanne Bazner, and Steven Alma. They all have sent us a lead in 2019.