



Spring Home & Garden



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Feature story page 11





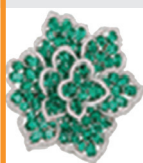
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John Nagle is not Fred Sanford!

Find out Why Clean Slate Estate is Premiere throughout New England

By RONA MANN
Special to The Westerly Sun

What is it that defines quality?

Quality is a word that's often misused, thrown around a lot because people think it sounds impressive to say their company and its services deliver quality; but if you don't really understand its definition and aren't working to deliver the highest level of that quality when providing those services, then it's just an empty word.

25+ years ago John Nagle started Clean Slate Estate, a company that works to clean out homes for a variety of reasons:

The owners are downsizing and moving to a smaller home and don't want to move a lot of excess "stuff" they no longer need.

The owners are planning on moving, but perhaps not for two years, but they wisely want to start downsizing now and not have to do it all at once when the time comes.

There has been a death or other life transition and the survivor(s) wish to pare down and simplify. Nagle and his staff realize that often this is a very emotional time for the homeowner and therefore they work to get the job done, done right, and in a timely manner in the most professional way.

There are many other reasons that people want to clean out their homes, as individual and personal as the people themselves. Clean Slate Estate understands these reasons; they've seen it all during their 25+ years in business, and they've perfected what they do to fit every situation, which is why they are now regarded as "New England's



premiere clean-out company."

High praise indeed, but praise that was earned, not just printed on a brochure nor stuck on a webpage. John Nagle himself regards any cleanup or removal project as "a process," one that can be very labor intense or perhaps one that requires only a bit of clean-out. That's why the first step in the process is a Complete Job Assessment.

His caring and professional staff first meets at the location to see specifically what the client wants Clean Slate to do. They explain their process and discuss a game plan of what is to be removed from the "estate" and what is to stay. Clean slate works one-on-one with their clients room by room including the basement, attic, garage, barn, and shed if needed, to remove the entire contents and then broom sweep before they consider the job completed. They also dis-

cuss how trash removal will be handled and if the client has need for them to move their items to another location, alleviating the stress of moving themselves.

Quite often homeowners have family heirlooms that are no longer wanted or needed, but the client has little idea of their worth or how to best sell or dispose of them. Clean Slate Estate has the solution. They can give accurate and honest appraisals of artwork, comics, coins, gold and silver, jewelry, stamps, toys, even vehicles, boats, motorcycles and, according to Nagle, "all items are evaluated right in front of the client. We pay higher prices than many of the shops out there, so our clients generally receive 5-10% more on their return."

If the client wishes to donate items, Clean Slate estate can handle that as well, writing up an itemized accounting that can be used

for tax-deductible purposes.

Yard sales? Flea markets? Nagle laughs. "We are not Sanford and Son." That was a good program, but it's not the way we handle things. We carry \$2 million dollars worth of insurance, and we're fully bonded. Most people who advertise that they handle estate sales are not, so if a potential buyer is injured on your property, your homeowners insurance often does not cover it. By using Clean Slate Estate, we maintain the liability, not you."

Clean Slate Estate is Rhode Island based but over the years and because of their stellar reputation and client referrals has expanded to where they now do clean-outs, appraisals, and sales in all New England states as well as eastern New York.

Their website has further information including discounts for seniors, war veterans, and multi-property clean-outs.

When people are starting over whether downsizing, moving, or because of a life event, it is always emotional and often traumatic. They want someone they can trust, someone with a high quality track record, someone fully insured and bonded, someone who does the job completely, in a timely manner, and does it right. They want New England's premiere clean-out company.

"We are that company," John Nagle states with enviable pride.

Contact Information for Clean Slate Estate: www.cleanslateestate.com, (800) 989-4521. To speak with John directly for further information, call him at (401) 640-9385

A Simple Bath & Kitchen Remodeling Process Home Owners Deserve

DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen Comes to Rhode Island!

By RONA MANN

Special to The Westerly Sun



How many times have you heard the story? Friends of yours, business associates, even family have decided to invest in a major project remodeling their kitchen or bath, but the general contractor they hired tells them to hire a designer, has them running around town for product selection and has the homeowners managing the schedule and communications between the carpenters, electricians and plumbers. It leaves your acquaintances feeling overwhelmed and frankly stuck.

That's over. That's all changed because DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen is opening, ready to serve all of Rhode Island, and the way this company approaches every project is with a simple (and organized) remodeling process they can not only promise, but hold to as well. So if other companies aren't able to deliver a simple remodeling process, how can DreamMaker do this?

Simple. DreamMaker is a one-stop shop because they believe this is easiest remodeling process for homeowners. They

walk each client through the phases of design (yes, you will get to see 3D renderings), product selection, construction and clean-up. All with one company and one point of contact. For over 20 years DreamMaker has been astounding homeowners nationwide with their simple remodeling process, with expert guidance and great communication through each step of the process. And now, they're here in southern New England ready to work for you.

From initial design to the completion of the project, DreamMaker is there for you, full service start to finish in your home. "Best of all, we won't start any demolition until we have all of the materials for your project. This allows us to minimize the disruption remodeling can cause our clients during construction." So you won't be stuck in a half remodeled house wondering where is your remodeler and when will the rest of the product be delivered.

Although DreamMaker has one simple process, they offer a suite of remodeling services that include not only kitchen and bath remodeling, but interiors as well; safety and mobility features, cabinet refacing, general contracting, and commer-



DreamMaker[®] Bath & Kitchen COMES TO RHODE ISLAND

A Simple Bath & Kitchen Remodeling Process Home Owners Deserve.

Website: www.DreamMaker-Remodel.com/SouthernRI
Phone Number: (401) 433-7272

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One Company, One Dedicated Point of Contact

Design to Completion Remodeling

cial remodeling as well as residential. Read on to get familiar with our simple remodeling process.

INITIAL MEETING

With any remodeling project, the customer always wants to know what the process is. First and foremost, DreamMaker emphasizes safety. That's why they offer the choice of either meeting in person or by webinar. During that first meeting a designer will listen carefully to what YOU want and discuss YOUR goals so that YOUR dreams are specifically incorporated into the new space. Photos or sketches you may have are always welcome.

HOME SURVEY

Following this meeting, a home survey is scheduled as well as a design review meeting. During this step, your DreamMaker designer will visit your home and take measurements, photos, and carefully look for any structural, plumbing, or electrical issues that need to be addressed or incorporated into the design. The more information the designer has, the more detailed and precise your initial estimate will be.

DESIGN

In Your Design Review, your dedicated designer will present your designs based on

prior conversations and style preference. The goal is to land on a design that will make YOUR dreams come true and give you a better idea of what the final cost will be.

DECIDE TO MOVE FORWARD & SIGN AGREEMENT

The last step is to carefully go over a detailed contract. This sets the tone for mapping out every phase of the project as well as establishing an open line of communication as to what specifically will be done.

So You Understand the Simple Process, But Why Should You Trust DreamMaker for your home remodel?

You'll be working directly with Dennis Aguiar the whole time from start to finish of your project.

We offer you in-house designers as part of our simple remodeling process

DreamMaker is one of the nation's largest remodelers and has a 96% recommendation rate on Guild Quality with nearly 2000 reviews*

You work directly with local Rhode Island business owners who live in and understand our area, but they are also a part of a network of remodeling experts committed to excellence.

DreamMaker has received 15 GuildMaster Awards and a bevy of design awards year after year.



We have availability on our production calendar and may be able to schedule your remodel very soon!

We've just given you a whole bunch of reasons to contact DreamMaker and get started. The contact information is below; and by the way, it's not a slogan, not a copyrighted tag line for advertising, but the foundation on which this exceptional company has built their business is also what they live every day from contractor to designer to the

professionals who do the actual work. "It's our job, but we never forget it's your home."

And your remodeling dream can come with a simple process

Call (401) 433-7272 www.Dreammaker-Remodel.com/SouthernRI

*Source: Guild Quality <https://www.guildquality.com/pro/dreammaker-bath-and-kitchen-corporate>. This average recommendation rate is from clients who were submitted surveys and responded.

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Exterior lighting can add ambiance to a property

The value of the right lighting in a home is undeniable. Lighting can instantly transform a room and create the ambiance homeowners are looking to establish. Though it might be mostly seen as a way to create mood inside a home, lighting also can do much for lawns and gardens.

Backyards have come a long way over the last several decades. Once reserved as play areas for children and stomping grounds for the family dog, backyards have become oases for homeowners and their families. Outdoor living areas are wildly popular, and no such area is complete without exterior lighting. In fact, a recent report from the National Association of Home Builders found that 85 percent of home buyers want exterior lighting, making it the second most desired outdoor feature (patios topped that list).

Exterior lighting can have a dramatic effect on landscaping, and estimates from the online financial resource Kiplinger.com suggest such lighting is inexpensive, with installation averaging roughly \$67 per fixture.

When installing exterior lighting around their landscapes, homeowners can keep various tips in mind to create a relaxing, awe-inspiring mood on their properties at night.

- **Consider uplights.** Uplights are installed in the ground and direct light up at a tree, focusing on its trunk or canopy. This creates a dramatic effect that makes it possible to enjoy majestic trees at night just like you might when spending time in the yard

during the day.

- **Focus on trees.** Many homeowners already have exterior lighting lining their walkways and patios, but focusing on trees can create an entirely different look. Though it's possible to install exterior tree lighting on your own, landscaping professionals with lighting experience know which fixtures will pair most effectively with the trees around your property and how to arrange them for maximum effect.

- **Opt for warm light.** Warm white light creates an inviting feel around the property. The exterior lighting experts at Utah Lights acknowledge that choice of lighting is up to homeowners but also note that, in situations with lower levels of ambient light, such as in exterior lights around a property, people typically prefer warmer light. That's because warm light tends to be easier on the eyes and directs attention to the features of the landscape, which is many homeowners' goal when installing exterior lighting in their yards.

- **Utilize a timer.** Modern exterior lighting timers make it easier than ever to control the lights outside a home. Many such timers even adjust for the changing seasons and the shifting hours of daylight. That means homeowners shouldn't have to tinker with the timer once it's set.

Exterior lighting can add significant appeal to a property without breaking the bank.

Swimming pool landscaping ideas

Backyard pools provide a way to cool off and enjoy a taste of luxury without having to travel. Backyard pools provided even more convenience and a welcome respite in 2020, as many public pools were closed in response to social distancing restrictions put in place during the pandemic.

After installing pools, many homeowners realize that touching up the landscaping around the pool can provide the finishing touch to their backyard retreats. Not all landscaping is the same, and homeowners should choose plants that look beautiful, are tolerant to pool splash-out and won't outgrow the area. The home and garden resource The Spruce notes that a plant that is attractive at two feet tall can grow rapidly and drop leaves or other debris into the pool.

When selecting options for pool landscaping, there are some considerations to keep in mind:

- Choose plants that will provide privacy.
- Know which kind of climate a plant needs prior to purchasing it. Tropical plants may be fitting poolside, but will they endure when the season is over?
- Design according to the theme of the home, as plants should complement the existing style.

- Decide whether you can accept spreading or trailing plants that can cascade over retaining walls and other infrastructure.

- Look at trees that won't drop too many leaves, flowers or fruit into the water.

- Think about having layers of plants to soften the landscape, which can make a small pool seem bigger and more luxurious.

- Don't overlook the possibility of a lawn abutting pavers or concrete surrounding a pool, as it can soften the edges and keep spaces open and inviting.

- Incorporate herbs or fragrant plants, which can transform a pool day into a spa experience.

Pool landscaping must marry a variety of different features and plant requirements. As a result, a professional consultation may be the route to take. Landscape architects will have the know-how to select plant varieties that will be tolerant, beautiful and fulfill homeowners' wishes.



Backyard pools can make a backyard retreat that much more enjoyable. Landscaping offers the softness and beauty that adds a finishing touch to poolside retreats.



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SMART HOME



Go To the Theatre... It's Just Down the Hall!

Thanks to: Global Smart Home and Wiring

By RONA MANN

Special to The Westerly Sun

It wasn't just the pandemic and being housebound for the better part of a year that did it.

Fact is, for several years now the trend was heading toward staying at home for entertaining your family and friends. Given the events of the last year, our innate desire for entertainment and diversion to break up monotony, lessen stress, and enjoy things together as a family, there are real benefits to having a dedicated media center in your home.

For starters, you will get the same movie-going experience with none of the hassle. Not having to find a parking place, not having to wait in line to buy tickets, or buy overpriced popcorn are just the beginning of the benefits and return on your investment. Here are some more reasons to get going on your own home entertainment room, more than enough reasons to have you make the call!

You can take video games to a whole new level with realistic surround sound and larger than life imagery.

Sporting Events? The best! You will always have a front row seat for Sunday football, March Madness, or the upcoming Summer Olympics, and you'll never be bothered by weather conditions; yet that big screen and movie theatre sound will make you feel you're right there cheering your team on in the stadium. The only thing you won't have is a \$15. beer!

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But it's not just for movies anymore. You can stream Netflix, Hulu, and other content not available elsewhere. Global does not just put in a sys-

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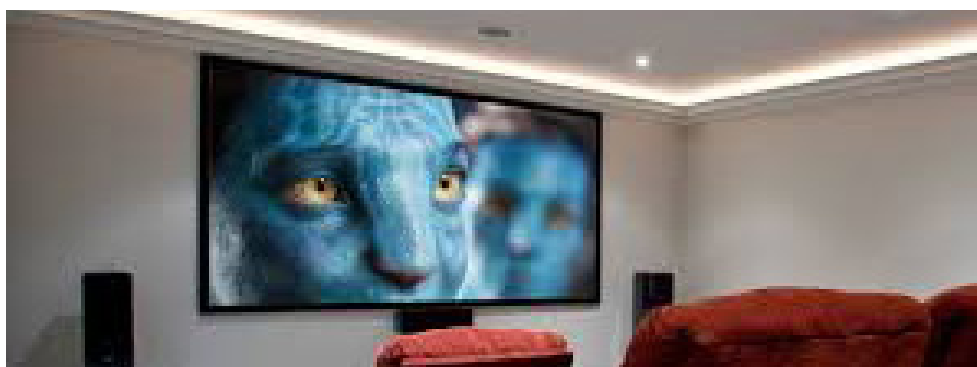


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tem, they design and install it with sound and acoustics that conform to the shape of the room, speaker size, furniture placement, and decor. While many people feel the basement of their home is the ideal choice for a home theatre, Global can also modify any room from an extra bedroom or office to playroom or garage.

But the scope of this unique company with years of experience and a large file of happy and satisfied customers throughout Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts deals not only in entertainment, but in full home automation systems, now featuring Josh - voice-controlled home automation that is totally private. Unlike Alexa and Google, it has its own server and does not listen to you nor take and use your private information. Josh can control lights, blinds, ceiling fans, coffee makers, and more whether you're down the street visiting a neighbor or even if you're across the country visiting friends 3000 miles away. Imagine the sense of security and peace of mind you'll get from knowing you can unlock the door for the kids when they get off the bus or for the dog walker who comes over once or twice a day. You can even unlock the door for a delivery person, have them put the packages inside, then immediately lock it once again. Josh works with a variety of smart devices and



services to make your life not only convenient but 100% secure as well.

Additionally, Global Smart Home and Wiring can provide and install WiFi throughout your home, install ring doorbells, and video recorders and cameras for total security both inside and outside your property, all with wireless residential installation.

Whether you're looking to add a full security system, build a full media room, or just add to, or replace one component of your home theatre, call Global. Don't let anyone tell you that a media room is frivolous. Global can show you that a home theatre is not just their business, but good business for you as well since a properly designed and installed home theatre can serve to boost the value of your home. It's not a toy, it's not a

whim, it's not a splurge. It's a solid investment...in your family, in the security of your home and property, and in years of saving money buying expensive tickets, traveling

hundreds of miles to venues, and enduring all kinds of inclement weather.

When you are looking to bring entertainment and technology together the smart way, your first line of defense is to call Global Smart Home Automation and Wiring. They know their and Wiring, that know what's out there and what the best devices are, and they want to get to know you. No cookie-cutter plans. They listen, they design, they work within your budget, and they are results and happy-customer driven.

That's why they've been serving southern New England for years. Says a lot. Call Dennis Aguiar at (401)741-0385 Dennis@gsatsound.com www.gsatsound.com

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Techniques to keep mosquitoes out of your backyard oasis

The value of a retreat-like backyard was never more apparent than in 2020. Over the last year-plus, much of the world has been forced to stay home as a global pandemic has claimed millions of lives while countless others have had to fight to survive in hospitals. It's no surprise people have looked for a respite from the harsh realities of living during a deadly pandemic, and many turned their attention to their own backyards to provide such an escape.

The online home remodeling platform Houzz reported a 58 percent annual increase in project leads for home professionals in June 2020. Contractors who specialize in outdoor spaces saw the biggest increase in demand. A revamped outdoor space can provide the perfect retreat for homeowners who want to get away from it all. But one winged, unwelcome guest can quickly transform an oasis into an uninviting space.

Mosquitoes make their presence felt in many areas each summer. These pesky, often hungry insects can carry disease, and their bites can be painful and itchy. Homeowners can try these three techniques to keep mosquitoes out of their backyards.



1. Remove standing water.

Standing water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes, who don't even need a lot of water to successfully breed. A daily walk around the property may uncover kids' toys, empty flower pots or other small receptacles that can collect water. Even clogged gut-

ters can lead to the accumulation of a small amount of water, and that can be enough for mosquitoes to breed. Remove these potential breeding grounds when you find them, and do so each day, as mosquitoes mature from eggs to nymphs in roughly four days.

2. Mow regularly.

Mowing the lawn so the grass never gets too high is another way to make a backyard less hospitable to mosquitoes. The pest experts at Terminix® note that mosquitoes seek tall grass to protect them from the elements, including wind and hot summer sun. Mowing enough so grass never gets too high in summer can make backyards less inviting to mosquitoes.

3. Plant with mosquitoes in mind.

The home remodeling experts at HGTV note that plants can be part of homeowners' strategy to repel mosquitoes. Various plants have mosquito-repellant qualities. For example, bee balm releases a fragrance as it grows, and mosquitoes don't like that fragrance. Homeowners can speak with a local lawn and garden professional for recommendations about plants that can thrive in their region and repel mosquitoes at the same time.

Mosquitoes can make it hard to enjoy a backyard oasis. But various strategies can help homeowners keep these unwanted guests out of their backyards.

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Keeping Perennial Customers and Beautiful Lawns

J & D Landscaping & Lawn Care



By RONA MANN
Special to The Westerly Sun

We were speaking of quality on the previous page, and nothing says quality more than never cutting corners, working hard, and delivering top of the line products and service consistently and professionally.

Guess that's the main reason that a business like J & D Landscaping and Lawn Care got to be 40 years old. That's also why most customers are return customers, as perennial as the flowers and shrubs that adorn their beautifully manicured lawns.

The reason for all this is simple: John Nagle, the man you just read about on the previous page, who commandeers the wildly successful Clean Slate Estate. Well, Nagle owns this company as well, and the very same ethics and standards he brings to Clean Slate Estate are planted deep within the soil of this company as well.

John Nagle is blunt, if nothing else because he believes in being thoroughly open and upfront with his customers and potential clients. "I don't believe in sugar-coating," he says. "I tell people this is what needs to be done to accomplish what you want. Can you afford it?"

That upfront attitude has kept J & D as the premiere Rhode Island and Massachusetts landscaping and lawn care company for nearly half a century because there are never any surprises, and all work is guaranteed.

Although J & D is independently owned, John does not consider the "big box lawn care companies" to be competition. "They are cookie-cutter," he explains. "They buy their products in the fall to save lots of money. But the winter can bring various weather conditions and temperatures which can effect those products. I buy mine in the spring, depending upon what happens

during the winter. I buy higher-end products which afford a slower release and longer residual effects."

Nagle is not looking for the customer who wants to hire what he calls a "mow, blow, and go company," have four applications, make four payments, and be done. "I am looking for long-term customers who are serious about coming home to a beautiful lawn and landscape. Everybody has big dreams, so I listen very carefully to what they tell me they want. I look around. I pay attention to everything because people think they know what they want, and it isn't always so. A big part of my job is in re-educating customers."

Sound blunt? That's why Nagle and his 10-person staff at J & D Lawn and Landscaping are unique in their approach and expert in their work. Servicing both residential and commercial clients, they readily allow that no job is too small, and they work closely with their long-term customers to resolve any issues, questions, or concerns.

When you call J & D for an estimate, your call is returned within 24 hours. That's service. Then an in-person meeting is set up to discuss in detail your landscape and lawn care needs in addition to any construction that is needed. This is "hardscape" and generally includes retaining walls, patios, walkways, pavers, and stone. The ideal balance for a beautiful yard is a combination of both landscape and hardscape, and J & D and their experienced and customer-centered staff are expert in creating whatever combination their clients want, need, and are within budget.

Lawn Care includes fertilizer, weed control, and crabgrass control with however many applications are needed to get the job done right. They also handle fungicide, lime application, and tick control. Trees and shrubs get the same careful attention with the addition of disease and oil sprays, while

shrubs are trimmed, shaped and pruned. Ornamental trees are pruned after the fruit drops or in the spring before growth begins.

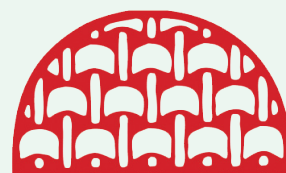
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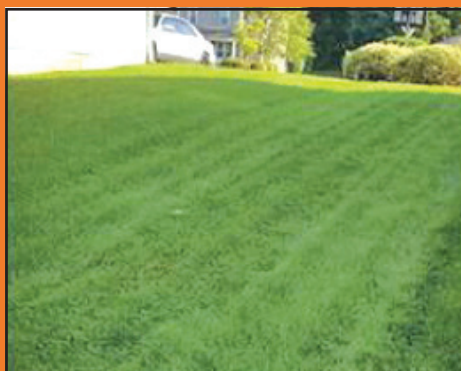
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