

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



Popular Spaces in Post-Pandemic Homes

Nahb's Survey Showed that a Laundry Room is the Most Wanted Specialty Room

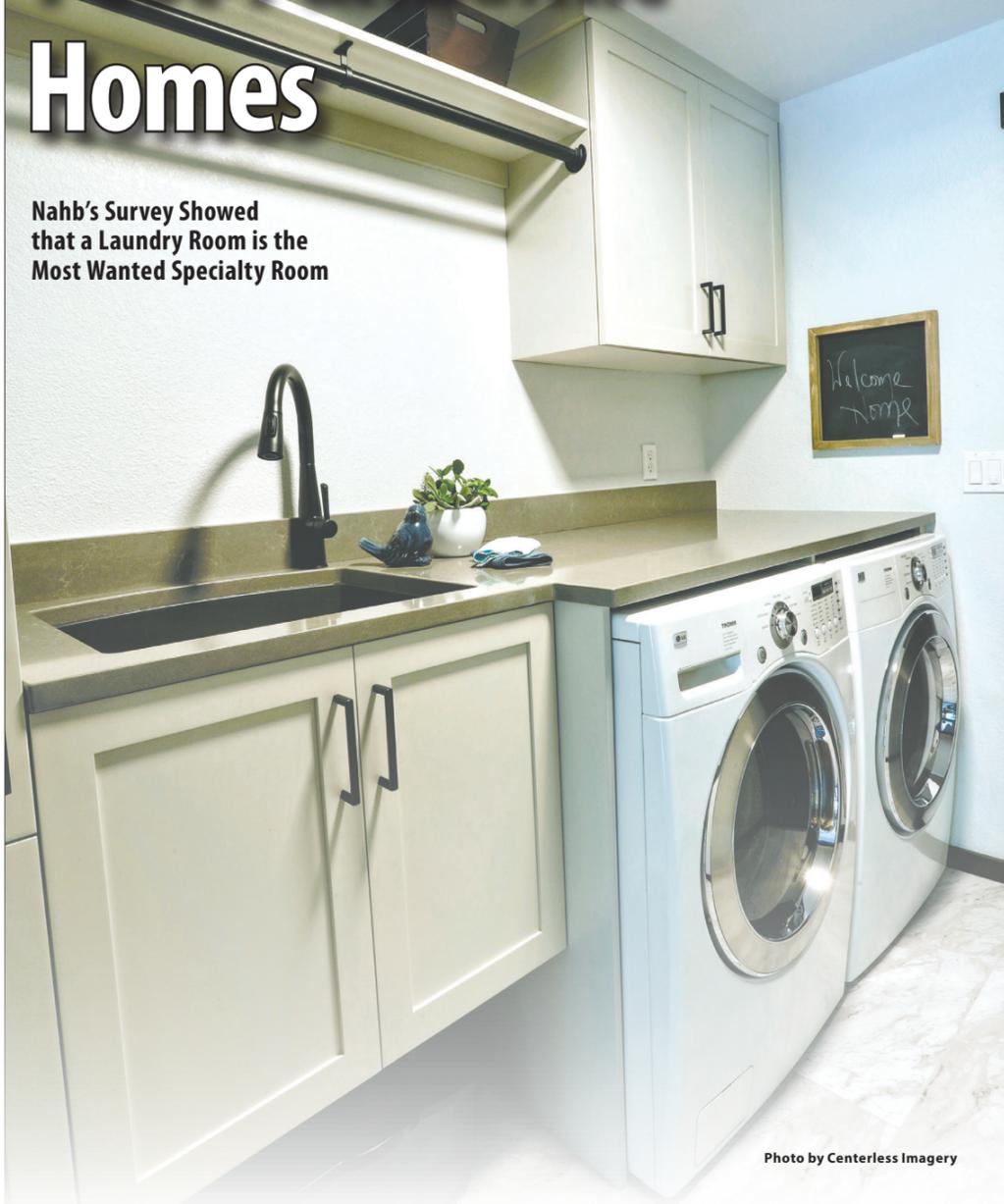


Photo by Centerless Imagery

Now that lumber prices are beginning to drop, it is a perfect time to start thinking about that remodeling project that has been temporarily put on hold!

The pandemic changed our lives, especially the time spent at home. Many homeowners have reevaluated what areas in their home they would like to modernize to fit their changing needs. What are the most sought out designated spaces buyers are looking for in new homes? According to a survey of recent and prospective home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), spaces for working out, working from home and outdoor spaces are among the most wanted specialty areas in a new home.

As individuals begin to return to work, some employers are allowing their employees to continue working from home in a full- or part-time capacity. Therefore, it is no surprise that the survey revealed that a majority (63 percent) of home buyers want a home office. Home offices are particularly popular among the millennial age group (74 percent) and married couples with children (70 percent). In terms of size, the study found that a majority (77 percent) of the buyers who want a home office would like the space to be at least 100 square feet, which is smaller than the average size of a bedroom, or larger.

Another trend among home buyers, likely accelerated by the pandemic, was the request for an exercise room. Nearly half of

all home buyers (47 percent) rated an exercise room as essential or desirable, according to NAHB's survey. When this question was asked in 2003, 27 percent of buyers wanted an exercise room, a full 20 percentage points lower than the current response. A majority of millennials (61 percent) and Gen Xers (62 percent) were among the age groups most interested in this space.

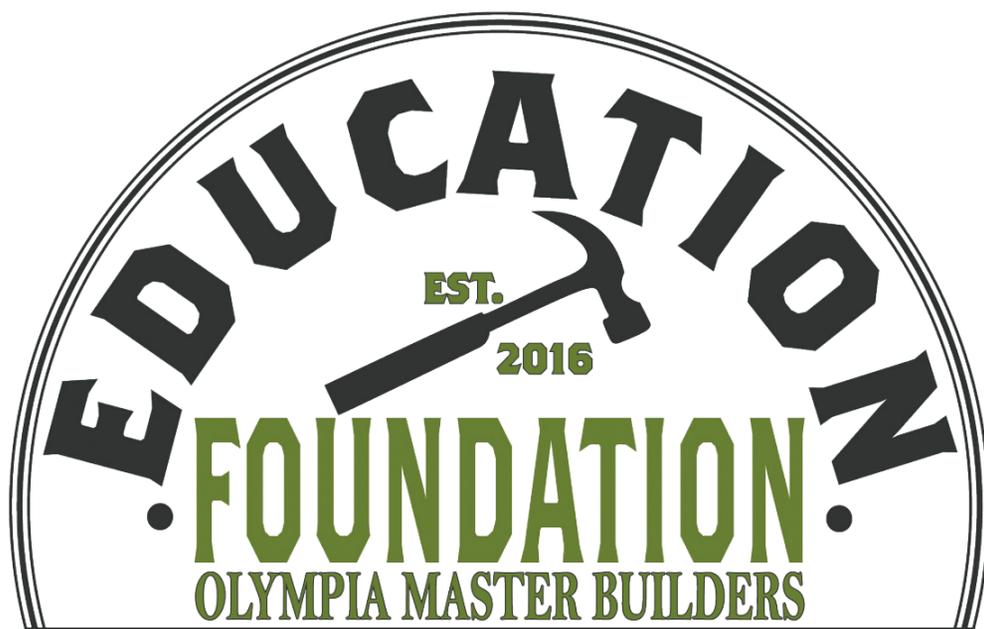
With more time spent at home this year, getting some fresh air and spending time outside the home grew in popularity. A majority of home buyers in the survey ranked a patio (87 percent) and a front porch (81 percent) among the top essential features in a home. An expanded outdoor space can help homeowners enjoy nature, relax and safely entertain, while social distancing.

Cleaning up the competition, NAHB's survey showed that a laundry room is the most wanted specialty room, with 87 percent of home buyers rating it essential or desirable. Laundry rooms are not just for dirty clothes, many homeowners utilize this space for extra storage.

To learn more about new homes with modern features or to get new fresh ideas for your upcoming remodel project, plan to visit the OMB Tour of Homes on July 24-25 in Thurston County. Visit omb.org for more information. For a full list of trusted Contractors and Remodelers in Lewis County, visit OMB.org for our online searchable directory.

2021 OMB Education Foundation Scholarship Program!

The OMB Education Foundation raises funds each year, primarily through its annual Auction, to invest back into OMB's five counties in the way of college or trade school scholarships. This year, the Foundation awarded \$12,500 in scholarships to eleven students, three of whom are from Lewis County. The Foundation also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship on behalf of the American Workforce Group in Olympia. Scholarships are awarded to students who reside in the Thurston, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Mason or Pacific Counties and are pursuing careers in the building industry. If you are interested in donating to the OMB Education Foundation or would like more information on the Scholarship Program, please visit omb.org today! And save the date for this year's virtual Auction, where anyone in the community can participate, which will take place November 5th-12th!



Building a quality workforce through education.

The OMB BIG Home & Garden Show in Thurston County

Mark your calendars for the BIG Home & Garden Show on September 11th and 12th at the Thurston County Fairgrounds. Vendor booths are still available. Please contact Jenn at membership@omb.org for more information.



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