



DOWNTOWN HOME & GARDEN

210 S. Ashley St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734-662-8122

BIRD feeding

The grain elevator in our store has a 1903 Edison motor that used to take seed up to the second floor to be stored out of the way. The chutes that the grain came down to fill bags are still here too, though we've long since moved on to a different system for selling seed. In the old days, we sold to farmers and people on the Old West Side who kept backyard chickens and geese. Now, our customers feed songbirds. The box store chains can't touch our prices on 25- and 50-pound bags, nor do they offer the variety we do. If you'd like smaller amounts of bird food we'll weigh out any amount you want from a pound on up on our 1929 Toledo Scale.



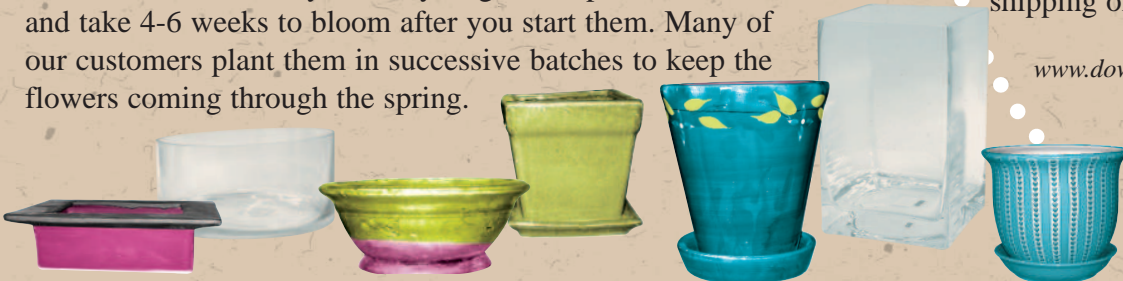
Mark the AMARYLLIS king

I am "Mark the Amaryllis King." Gaze on my collection of 48 varieties and rejoice. No one, not the catalogs and especially not the box store chains, has anything nearly as spectacular to offer. All of my bulbs will produce two stalks, each with four huge flowers, and some of the jumbo-sized bulbs will produce four stalks. Mine are the biggest, baddest bulbs in town. We also have a broad selection of containers and baskets to pot your amaryllis in and complete kits that we can ship anywhere in the 48 states. Kits start at \$22, shipping only \$7⁹⁵.

See our web site at www.downtownhomeandgarden.com for details.

PAPERWHITE narcissus

Fragrant and cheerful paperwhite narcissus are a traditional Christmas flower. They are easy to grow in pebbles or soil and take 4-6 weeks to bloom after you start them. Many of our customers plant them in successive batches to keep the flowers coming through the spring.



KITCHEN wares

It just so happens that I'm a pretty good cook. Good enough to know that the ingredients and technique are far more important to cooking good food than the equipment you use. But every kitchen needs certain reliable tools, which is what we have in mind when we choose stock for our kitchen department. We don't automatically go for gadgets that promise miracle results and come in this year's designer colors; we tend toward frugal, time-tested choices whenever possible. If a more expensive option provides the best value then that's what we offer. When I'm cooking, it's pure joy to pull out my 20-year-old bread knife that once, in desperation, I used to cut sod to fit around a garden. It still cuts crusty Zingerman's bread and slices ripe tomatoes.

Whenever I use that knife, it's like visiting an old friend. We want you to have this experience as well. Just like our store, the products we sell will serve you for the long haul.



All-Clad MC2 stock pot, Lodge cast iron frypan, Le Creuset French oven, Brazilian Soapstone pot, J.A. Henckels chef's knife

Visit our fledgling website
downtownhomeandgarden.com



Polish Pottery plate, solid maple salad bowl, whiteware pitcher, Chinese lacquered rice bowl, Peugeot lacquered peppermill



Wearever sheet pan, heavy copper cookie cutters, solid maple rolling pin, Nordic Ware bundt pan, Mason Cash mixing bowls, Salter cooking scale, heavy stainless measuring spoons

Dear Friends,

Margaret and I were in Athens for the first time this past September, yet when we turned a corner and saw the Parthenon, it seemed familiar. We'd seen it so many times in pictures and on postcards that it took a moment to sort out the reality of actually being there. We climbed marble steps up the Acropolis (the hill the Parthenon sits on) toward the temple with visitors from all nations. At the foot of the massive marble pillars, I tipped my head back and looked up to take it all in. Post cards hadn't prepared me for the sense of significance I felt seeing the Parthenon in person. It was just breathtaking, sitting above Athens, under the blue sky, in a broad valley with warm, dry breezes rising up to it. All I could mutter was something inane: "This is not the work of lightweights." The Parthenon is at once a temple, a monument and a symbol of Athenian democracy. It was built 2500 years ago to be a record of the power and grandeur of Ancient Greece, and it is successful at reminding us of that.

So, I'm a retailer (even when I'm on vacation) and it wasn't long before I started thinking about the millions of people who come to pay homage to the Parthenon, and who sustain the small shops and restaurants around it. Plaka (the old town) is the neighborhood around the Parthenon, and it's a hive of commercial activity with businesses spilling out of their small buildings into the narrow streets. From nine in the morning until midnight, the people keep coming. Tuesdays are just as busy as Saturdays; it's a retailer's dream. And the crowds weren't just shopping- they were buying and plunking down serious cash. I've never seen such a successful retail shopping district of owner-run small businesses. I was glad for the Greeks' success, but I was jealous. We don't have a Parthenon.

In Ann Arbor, we have wonderful periodic events like U-M football, the Art Fair, foot races, Oktober Fest tents and the rolling sculpture show of antique cars. I'm thankful. They bring crowds. What we don't have are great new buildings that revitalize neighborhoods with superior architecture and 24/7 community usefulness. There are

only a few sites left downtown large enough to carry significant buildings. It would be a shame to use them up on selfish concrete boxes that look like they were designed by a committee of number-crunchers with maximum short-term profit as their primary goal. Even when a developer tries to go beyond mandated community goals, their projects start out behind the eight ball. New buildings have to meet codes like barrier free access (ADA), storm-water retention, affordable housing requirements and historic preservation. These are worthy social aspirations, and I support every one of them, but together they come at a cost that makes it hard to also spend for good architecture, interesting building materials and a more engaging use of space.

I don't expect anything as profound as the Parthenon to appear downtown. The time of building projects that take a century has passed. But, in Greece, I saw what architecture can bring to a community. I hope the good people of Ann Arbor can figure out how to compromise their demands on new projects so that buildings that interact with and contribute to the vitality of their neighborhoods end up on the few remaining large sites. That's our future and I want to be a part of it.

Mark

The REAL Santa Claus

will be visiting Downtown Home & Garden on Saturday, December 8th from 10-2. We're throwing a party in his honor and everyone is welcome. Santa will be accepting Christmas wish lists, talking to children and giving each one of them a beautiful Christmas orange. There will be roasted chestnuts, eggnog and cider for all. Please join us for some easygoing fun downtown. Just in case you can't make it, Lewis will be here all through the holiday season accepting Christmas wish lists for Santa.



Regular Hours

Monday through Saturday

7:30 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Sunday

11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Midnight Madness

Friday, December 7th

Holiday Hours Start December 8th

Monday through Saturday

7:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Sunday

11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Day

7:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.