

HOME REMODELING TIPS

Time to give your garage a makeover

By Kevin Mond

If you're looking to increase livable or storage space without major changes, remodeling your garage can be a great option. Building an addition onto your home is often more disruptive and expensive than renovating an existing garage. One of the best things you can do is have an experienced team behind you to make sure that your project is completed safely and efficiently.

The first thing to do is understand your needs and develop a clear scope of work. Do you want extra storage space? Are you looking to add a personal workshop for hobbies and activities? A home office? Extra living space? Whatever your goals are, updating even a small garage can have a big impact. Here are some ideas from a past project (pictured) to help you make the most of your garage remodel.

Aesthetics and quality craftsmanship were important to our clients for this garage remodel. Because the garage is so prominent in their backyard, a thoughtfully remodeled building that matched the style of their home and worked with the layout of their deck and yard was essential.



Storage space for bike storage, a main mode of transportation for the client, was essential.

Photography by Open Homes Photography



Garage before remodel.



Garage after remodel.



Exterior style of the garage mimics the main house to make it an extension of the home.

Add Storage Space

Whether you're storing tools, bikes, gear, toys, or other household items, there are endless creative options for turning your garage into a functional and accessible storage space. Take advantage of the walls and install hooks, shelves and cabinetry that can accommodate items like bikes, tools and ladders. Large floor-standing shelving units will give every item its own place. You can even add overhead racks on the ceiling to store bulky items.

Create a Workshop or Home Office

If you're into gardening, carpentry, crafting, metalworking, or other DIY projects, creating a dedicated workshop is a great way to utilize extra space in your garage. Add a workbench and you'll be all set for your home improvement projects. Alternatively, with many people now working from home these days, adding an office in your garage can provide you with a quiet space to work away from the hustle and bustle of your main house.

Make it Pretty

Having an aesthetically pleasing garage is just as important as having one that is functional. Choosing to match the exterior style of your main house unifies the aesthetic and makes the garage truly feel like an extension of your home and the rest of the property. It's important to invest in quality materials to ensure an elevated look. Some upgrades you can make include adding an automatic overhead garage door to replace a sliding carriage door. Incorporating glass panels and windows allows natural light to filter into the space. Select the window design, siding and paint colors to mirror the main house. And finally, finish the interior. See *Garage Makeover* on [page 32](#)

FIRST MONDAY READING GROUP

First Monday Reading Group discusses John Lewis' *Across That Bridge*

By Dick Carter

Due to the Labor Day holiday on the first Monday of September, the Piedmont Recreation Department's First Mondays Reading Group had their Zoom book discussion on September 14.

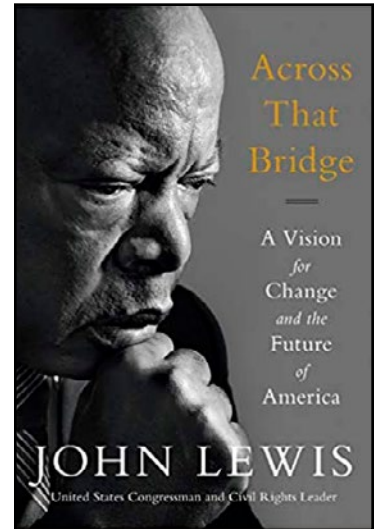
With the recent death of Congressman John Lewis and society's current focus on racial and social justice, the group decided to read Lewis' *Across That Bridge*. There was a solid turnout of 14 members of the group for the call. Participating were Melba Yee, Sarah Johnson, Alicia Rivera, Jeri Lockhart, Laura Goldman, Adrienne Hamlin, Mike Henn, Nancy Henn, Marion Lim Yankowitz, Margie Blodgett, Pat McSwain, Dick Carter, and group leaders Priscilla Waner and Carol Long.

John Lewis was a civil rights pioneer and icon. He was one of the leaders of the 1963 March on Washington and a speaker with Martin Luther King Jr. at the Lincoln Memorial. In 1965, Lewis led a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, an event which became known as "Bloody Sunday." State troopers and police attacked the marchers, leaving Lewis and others battered and bloody. Lewis later served 17 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives representing Georgia from 1987 until his death earlier this year. During this time he was a champion of civil rights and social justice. He was also the author of seven books, including *Across That Bridge*, drawing from his personal experiences as a civil rights leader to offer guidance on the importance of living a virtuous life and how to change the world without the use of violence.

The reading group universally enjoyed *Across That Bridge*. Lewis followed his Christian faith and Gandhi's principles of non-violence to accomplish change. The readers felt Lewis' themes of love and non-violence are timeless and inspiring. The group discussed how the debate between violence and non-violence for achieving change continues. It was questioned how much the current generation knows about the power of non-violence today.

The readers agreed that there has been racial progress in our country, but that we still have a long way to go, and that violence makes situations worse. It can be discouraging to see that change is not as rapid as many would like.

People become impatient, but the process of change is like a relay race where the struggle is passed from one generation to the next. The group's hope was that



it will not take another hundred years to achieve true racial justice in our country.

Lewis provided insights from his actions in the '60s which the readers felt can be used to bring change now. The group felt that this is a book for the next generation of leaders, as it reads like a guide on how to conduct themselves and accomplish change.

Faith in God and Lewis' cause kept him going on a personal level and motivated him in peaceful resistance. The group agreed Lewis was a great man, that *Across That Bridge* is a fine book, that it had generated a group conversation by the reading group, and that discussions are important even though the issues are uncomfortable.

The outpouring of love for John Lewis at his death was understandable for the readers. Laura Goldman noted that actor Morgan Freeman read Lewis' final words at his funeral. They were words that Lewis wrote at the very end of his life, Alicia Rivera had recently listened to this remarkable oratory (available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2DSkAys-8>), and hoped others would listen to it as well. Alicia commented that America lost a true leader during our troubled times.

In discussing future books to read and discuss, the group selected *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson for November and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen for December. They earlier made *The Dutch House*, a novel by Ann Patchett, their October selection. The group has read mostly recently written books, and thought reading a classic like *Pride and Prejudice* would be an interesting change.

The group will meet next in a Zoom call on Monday, October 5, at 1:30 p.m. New members are welcome, and there is no fee to participate. Registration with the Piedmont Recreation Department is required by contacting John Wilk at jwilk@piedmont.ca.gov.

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Harvest Festival will be virtual on Sunday

By Allyson Aleksey

This year's Harvest Festival, originally scheduled for Piedmont Park this Sunday, September 27, will take place but as a virtual celebration due to restrictions brought on by the pandemic.

"As disappointing as not having an in-person event is, the city recognizes that the most important thing right now is to keep the community safe and healthy," said Recreation Director Chelle Putzer. "Because of the nature of the Harvest Festival, social distancing measures would not be possible to achieve, let alone enforce, during this event."

This year's Festival featured a photo contest and a youth coloring, drawing, and collage contest.

The Recreation Department encouraged Piedmont residents to share harvest gardening successes with the virtual festival. Residents emailed photos of their home-grown edibles, preserves and cooking at one photo per category.

The deadline for photo submissions was Friday, September 18.

Categories for submissions include: tomato, pumpkin, squash, jam, bread, mustard, best cookie, dried fruit and veggie, salsa, unusual fruit, curds and butters, jam, apple pie, cake, cucumber pickles, ugly edible, honey, preserved edible, "other" pie, pesto and sauce, preserved veggie, and compost pile.

The youth coloring contest was sponsored by the Piedmont



Anne-Marie Lamarche's homegrown edibles.



Susan Hill's biggest tomato weighs over 1 pound.

Garden Club, and kids ages 14 and younger were able to download a poster, create their own

vegetable drawing or make a collage from the nature scavenger hunt page found on the recreation department's website.

"[This] is essentially a way to engage all the ages as we're all sheltering in place," said Susan Hill, founder of the Harvest Festival. She added that designing the festival virtually allows for a wider breadth of possibilities.

"We look forward to getting back to the normal harvest festival next year. It's quite a tradition in Piedmont," Recreation Commission Chair Steve Roland said.

To view more submissions, visit <https://piedmont.ca.gov/cms/one.aspx?portalId=13659823&pageId=17046963>.



Tamisha Apodaca's honey.

Walking Piedmont

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type of building, successful architectural design needs to form a coherent whole with all parts and pieces of the design in the same family, integrated, to create a visually attractive look and impression. The feeling we get from a building is really what's important. Often we are able to see and experience a building and like it or not like it, even if we are unable to articulate why. We will

be exploring these different elements in future columns.

I continue to encourage everyone to walk around, look, reflect, and form opinions of the different principles being discussed.

Next: Parking in Piedmont

Will Adams is a Planner, Urban Designer and Architect, who has lived in Piedmont for 30 years.

Garage Makeover

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rior with a wall that is durable, low maintenance and visually pleasing.

When all is said and done, the results speak for themselves. You'll end up with a space that is charming, highly functional and will increase the value of your home. For more information about this garage remodel, visit hdrremodeling.com/florence-ga-range. To get started on renovating your garage, contact us at hdr@hdrremodeling.com or call us at

510-845-6100 to schedule a free consultation. At HDR Remodeling, we work where you live.

Kevin Mond is Head of Business Development and Design and is typically the first point of contact for new clients. He holds a degree in Architecture and Environmental Studies and has worked on projects in Holland, Germany, and Sweden. HDR Remodeling is located at 2952 Sacramento Street in Berkeley.

CRIME REPORT

Auto thieves nabbed by PPD

By Jay Russell

In the middle of the night on Friday morning, September 18, Piedmont police interrupted an attempted auto theft on St. James Drive. Responding to a call from a resident shortly before 4 a.m., officers quickly arrived. The suspect's vehicle left at a high rate of speed, failed to pull over and caused a single vehicle collision near Highland Ave and Piedmont Ct.

The police immediately detained Luis Villegas, 36, and Jaime Ambrez, 41, both of Oakland, who were driving a car already stolen. The Piedmont car they were attempting to steal had the door lock and ignition punched out. A third suspect fled the scene and was not located.

Villegas and Ambrez were later cited and released for possession of a stolen vehicle, and burglary tools, along with several vehicle code violations. The suspects were released due to COVID-19 restrictions limiting jail capacity.

Where in the World Are We?



Piedmont Scouts in Troop 4 headed to Seabase in the Florida Keys in July for a week of sailing. Less than 24 hours after this photo was taken, the Scouts had to evacuate, not because of the COVID-19, but due to an incoming hurricane. Pictured are Astrud Moxley (left), Gavin Horne, Jet Moxley, Kian Roseborough, Kyoko Nagayasu, Lucca Carr-Veramo, Oliver Bierhaus, and Cassindy Chao.

Send your photos of the Post in the far corners of the world, or of other communities named Piedmont, to: WITWAW, 1139 Oakland Ave., Piedmont, 94611.

2020 Calendar of Events

September 23 - October 28

Meetings will be conducted by ZOOM and should be viewable on KCOM (Channel 27) and on the City's website: piedmont.ca.gov.

Wednesday, September 23

7 p.m. School Board..... Virtual meeting via Zoom

Thursday, September 24

5:30 p.m. Public Safety Committee meeting..... Virtual meeting via Zoom

Monday, October 5

6 p.m. City Council meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 7

5:30 p.m. Park Commission meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom

Monday, October 12

5:30 p.m. Planning Commission meeting..... Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 14

7 p.m. School Board meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom

Monday, October 19

6 p.m. City Council meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 21

7:30 p.m. Recreation Commission meeting..... Virtual meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 28

7 p.m. School Board meeting Virtual meeting via Zoom