Spring HOME Improvement









The Northwood Anchor

Wednesday, April 5 , 2023

2023

It's Spring!!

Come in and find a mower to get the job done!



$4,999

New Cub Cadet Ultima ZTS1 46
22hp Kohler, 46" fab deck, EZT-2200 trans, 7mph

$11,999



New Cub Cadet Pro Z 560
60" Fab Deck, 27hp Kawasaki, Adjustable Suspension Seat, Pump and wheel motors, 10MPH



$5,899

New Cub Cadet Ultima ZTS2 54
54" Fab deck, Steering wheel zero turn, 24hp Kohler, Hydro Gear ZT-2800 7MPH



$7,899

New Cub Cadet Ultima ZTXS4 60
60" Fab deck, Steering Wheel Zero Turn, 24HP Kohler, Hydro Gear ZT-3100 8MPH

$15,299



New Cub Cadet Pro Z 960S
60" Fab deck, 35HP Kawasaki, Air Ride Seat, Parker Pump and wheel motors 14MPH

$6,199



New Cub Cadet Ultima ZTS2 60
60" Fab Deck, Steering Wheel Zero Turn, 25HP Kohler, Hydro Gear ZT-2800 7MPH

$12,999



New Altoz XP610HDi
61" fab deck, 29.5hp EFI Kawasaki, Hydro Gear ZT-4400, 11 MPH, Adjustable Seat Suspension

$18,000



New Altoz TRX561i
61" Fab Deck, 29.5hp EFI Kawasaki, Hydro Gear ZT-4400, 9MPH, Adjustable Suspension Seat, Torqflex Front suspension, Tracks



$9,399

New Altoz XE610 SS
61" Fab Deck, 24hp Kawasaki, Hydro Gear ZT-3200, 9 MPH

Ask your dealer about exceptional financing offers

D&L EQUIPMENT

1 MAPLE ST. • KENSETT, IA 50448 • 641-845-2199

McCloskey Appliance

Spring is the perfect time to upgrade your appliances



Your dealer for KitchenAid, Whirlpool, Jenn-Air, Amana and Maytag.

Stop in and see our whole new look!

Locally owned & operated applicance center dedicated to sales and service after the sale.

www.mccloskeyappliance.com

1647 N. Federal
Mason City
641-423-7969

360 State Street
Garner
641-923-4748

Open Monday - Friday • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

GOT MUD?

FALKSTONE LLC
Located at the corner of Hwy 65 & 440th St.
(3 miles South of Northwood)
(641) 324-1320 - or (641) 713-4569

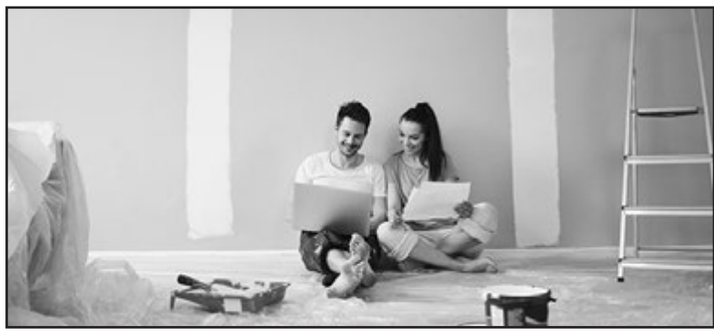
GET STONE!

Complete Excavating

Basements
Water/Sewers
Landscape Grading
Directional Boring
Foundation Excavations



Peterson Excavating & Drainage, Inc.
812 Walnut Street, Kensett
Mike Peterson 641-390-1499



Five signs its time to renovate

Homeowners renovate their homes for a variety of reasons. Renovations can increase the value of a property and make homes safer and more comfortable for their occupants. Improvements also can be made to stay current with the times or to give a home a new vibe.

Statista projects $510 billion will be spent on home improvements in 2024. The home improvement market is generating significant revenue. In fact, nearly a quarter of Americans opting to renovate their homes will spend an average of $10,000 on their projects. According to a Home Stars Renovation report, 8 percent of Canadian homeowners who have renovated have spent more than $20,000 on a home improvement project.

Kitchens and bathrooms often get the most attention when it comes to home improvement. However, every room and space in a home may need a renovation at some point, and the following are five signs it's time to renovate.

1. Age

The National Association of Home Builders states that 50 percent of U.S. homes are over the age of 40. That means that age alone could dictate a need to renovate, particularly if some materials are original to the home. For example, asphalt roofs typically last 25 to 30 years, while window frames can last 20 to 50 years depending on how well they have been maintained.

2. Inconvenient layout

Some homeowners scratch their heads when faced with awkward floor plan layouts. While one may live with the inconvenience for some time, typically a floor plan that isn't working for the homeowner is a major driver of renovations.

3. Outdated looks

A home can look dated even if it is a relatively recent build. That's because trends change quickly. For example, dark, cherry cabinets that were popular just a little while ago have now been replaced by lighter color palettes. Homeowners whose homes do not match the looks emulated in design magazines may consider a change, particularly if they're planning to sell soon.

4. Deterioration

Signs of water, storm or structural damage should be addressed as soon as possible. Any deterioration should be a strong indicator that it's time to renovate.

5. Efficiency

Escalating utility bills could be indicative of an inefficient home. Homeowners can conduct energy audits and then improve the areas where energy loss may be occurring, such as windows, doors, siding, and insulation.

Homeowners can renovate their homes when they see fit, but various signs may warn that it's time consider updating or remodeling a home.



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 shouldnÕt have to tinker with the timer once it's set.

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



BICE ELECTRIC LLC

Serving North Iowa and Surrounding Communities

INDUSTRIAL - AERIAL - FARM - RESIDENTIAL

Let us bring solar power to your business, farm or community

Call us today for a quote.

Brenton Bice • 641-390-0038

Bob Bice • 641-530-5294

We also offer a wide range of general electrical services. These include generator installs, LED updates (and rebates), residential, commercial, industrial, and farm wiring.

Get the job done right, the first time, on time, within budget without sacrificing our safety or yours.

200 5th St. • Kensett, IA

Factors to consider before renovating a driveway

Driveways are oft-overlooked components of home exteriors. But driveways provide functionality and points of egress to a home. Industry experts estimate that a new driveway costs between $5,000 and $7,000, though the price will vary based on the materials homeowners choose and the square footage of the driveway.

When deciding whether or not to renovate their driveways, homeowners can review these considerations.

Materials

Driveways can be made from a variety of materials, even grass or soil. The following are some driveway materials homeowners may choose from:

~ Gravel
~ Chip seal
~ Concrete
~ Asphalt
~ Rubber
~ Exposed aggregate
~ Pavers
~ Permeable pavers
~ Heated

Repair or replace?

Nearly any size crack can be patched with concrete or cold-patch asphalt, or specialty materials, according to This Old House, an online home improvement resource. Repairing and resealing a driveway can help prolong its longevity. Plus, this is a more cost-effective option for homeowners on a budget who want to improve curb appeal and safety.

Large holes or unsightly damage may require a driveway replacement. This also will be the case if a homeowner hopes to expand the driveway. Replacing a driveway requires a time commitment. The existing driveway needs to be demolished and removed. The ground underneath typically is smoothed and tamped down. Substrate or wire mesh also may be installed. After the new material is laid, there may be a period of time for settling and curing, during which use of the driveway is prohibited.

DIY or professional?

While sealing and minor repairs generally can be handled by a homeowner who has researched the process, large repairs or driveway replacements should be left to professionals for the best results. Driveway slope needs to be considered for proper rain runoff, and the professional will understand the thickness and preparatory steps necessary to ensure driveway durability. Installation of a heated driveways requires a specific skill set and this is a job best left to professional driveway contractors.

Driveway enhancements

The options do not end with the driveway material. There are other ways to boost aesthetics.

~ Illumination: Homeowners can install recessed LED lights into the driveway to define the edges and add aesthetic appeal.

~ Stamped texture: Homeowners opting for the affordability of concrete can ask for a stamped design that mimics the look of stone or pavers.

~ Gates: One doesn't have to live in an exclusive community to have their property enhanced by gates. Gates can give a home a distinguished look.

~ Edging: Driveways can be edged with another material to create definition between the driveway and lawn, or to provide the perfect spots to plant beds.

Driveway renovations can add curb appeal and improve the functionality of a home

SOLAR SALES & INSTALLATION
Residential-Commercial-Farm

FREE ESTIMATES

Alliant Energy Approved SAVE $ on ELECTRIC COSTS!

Federal Tax Credit for 2023



NE Northwood Electric Inc.

97 8th St. N. • Northwood • 641-324-2041

ABRAMS
SINCE 1954 DRAINAGE SERVICE
Farm Drainage and Excavating
(641) 390-1278
Basements, Sewers, Septics, Water Lines, Demolition
Free Estimates
Matt Abrams
1122 Hwy. 105, Northwood
abramatt@yahoo.com



Buying...Remodeling...
Adding On?
Let NSB Help!
Call Andy today!
• Real Estate Mortgages
• Home Improvement Loans
• Home Equity Line of Credit



Andy Julseth
Vice President
We're HERE For YOU.
NSB BANK
(641) 324-1023
www.nsbbank.com
900 Central Avenue • Northwood
(641) 324-1023
FDIC

Seven characteristics of modern houses



Homes contain a variety of components that appeal to homeowners with different ideas about the perfect place to call home. That starts with the style of a home.

Buildings are classified according to share components. A Craftsman style home will have a covered porch with a set of wide base columns, while a Cape Cod home is often defined by a gabled roof and dormer windows. Modern houses, which are sometimes called contemporary homes even though the terms are not interchangeable, will have their own sets of unique characteristics. Here's a look at seven features that make modern homes unique.

1. Minimalist approach: Contemporary and modern homes both employ an approach that leans toward minimalism, including clean design lines. Spaces are open and airy without the clutter of too many ornate architectural details. While modern homes may have some curvature to their design, contemporary ones are all about an angular look.

2. Neutral color palette: Modern homes tend to utilize a neutral color palette. Modern homes may use "earthy"elements, such as wood and brick, in ways that do not look rustic. Contemporary homes rely on a color palette of black and white with shades of gray or other neutral colors.

3. Geometric shapes: Modern homes have strong horizontal and vertical elements that showcase geometric shapes in their designs. Contemporary homes often have flat roofs, while modern homes may not.

4. Large, unadorned windows: Most modern homes showcase a lot of natural light by utilizing large windows that are not covered up by heavy window treatments or elements like shutters and thick trims. Large windows are the focus of the interior and shift attention to the view outdoors.

5. Open floor concept: A hallmark of modern interior design, the open concept floor plan removes many of the walls that tend to separate common areas of a home. This helps to foster the spread of natural light and maintains the emphasis on simplicity of design.

6. Smart elements: Thanks to the proliferation of smart technology, smart homes are cropping up with greater frequency. While smart devices can be included in any home style, they tend to feel like they were designed specifically for modern homes. In a similar vein, modern homes may include environmentally friendly elements, such as solar panels, upcycled materials, added insulation, and energy efficient lighting.

7. Updated kitchen spaces: The clean lines and attention to technology and open space generally extends to modern kitchens. Modern kitchens tend to feature efficient, top-tier appliances with additional storage and space amenities that keep the room from feeling cluttered.

While some may consider modern homes austere, many others are right at home among their clean lines and airy spaces.

Popular trends in home exteriors

Certain homes have an undeniable wow factor. That instant appeal tends to be noticeable the moment visitors pull up to the curb, and it might be a byproduct of homeownersÕ willingness to embrace the latest exterior design trends.

Trends come and go, but recognition of the current fashions can help homeowners create that highly sought-after wow factor. The following are some recent trends in home exteriors that have helped homeowners set their properties apart.

Wood

Natural wood has undeniable appeal, and it hasnÕt only found newfound devotion among home interior decorators. Natural wood garage doors create a sense of warmth and can set a home apart from others with steel doors, which tend to be the most popular garage door material. In addition to the garage door, natural wood entry doors and wood decks are popular ways to impart this classical, warm look to a homeÕs exterior.

Painted brick

Like natural wood, brick is a traditional material thatÕs both sturdy and classical. But homeowners can add character to brick with a coat of paint, which has become a popular trend in recent years. Light tones tend to be most popular when painting bricks. The experts at Better Homes & Gardens note that this could prove a long-term commitment if homeowners so desire, as a properly painted brick exterior could last as long as 20 years.

Hardscaping

Hardscaping isnÕt a new trend, but it has been trending in recent years. Hardscaping is an umbrella term that includes everything from outdoor living rooms to incorporating natural stone into a landscape. Outdoor living rooms are one hardscaping trend that has become increasingly popular of late. These spaces serve as an extension of indoor living spaces. The home improvement experts at HGTV note that recently homeowners have looked to create covered outdoor rooms that can be enjoyed more frequently than patios or decks that are not protected from the elements.

Outdoor lighting

It makes sense that individuals looking to spend more time enjoying their properties outdoors would want more lighting outside. Ambient outdoor lighting can be utilized throughout a property. Such lighting can light up walkways and driveways and be used to light up landscaping features like trees and gardens.

Home design trends tend to be fickle. But recognition of the current trends in exterior home design can set homes apart and turn properties into awe-inspiring places to enjoy the great outdoors.



WORTH Lumber Co

Monday thru Friday
7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday
7:00 am - 12:00 pm

BUILDING SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS

641.324.0117
www.WorthLumber.com
info@WorthLumber.com

706 8th Street North
Northwood, IA 50459

Small renovations that can make a big impact

Home renovations provide a host of benefits. Such projects can increase resale value and improve on the safety, aesthetics and functionality of a home.

Some homeowners may employ the mantra Ògo big or go homeÓ when they embark on home improvements, thinking that only the largest renovations produce noticeable change. But thatÕs not the case. Various smaller renovations can provide a lot of bang for homeownersÕ bucks as well.

~ Countertops (and hardware): A complete kitchen overhaul may stretch some homeowners' budgets. However, changing an older countertop for a new material can provide the facelift a kitchen needs. And while changing the cabinets may be homeowners' ultimate goal, swapping hardware in dated finishes for newer handles and pulls can provide low-cost appeal.

~ Paint: Painting a space is an inexpensive improvement that adds maximum impact. Paint can transform dark and drab rooms into bright and airy oases. Paint also can be used to create an accent wall or cozy nooks. Homeowners also can showcase their personalities with their choice of paint colors.

~ Lighting: Homeowners should not underestimate what a change in lighting can do. When rooms or exterior spaces are illuminated, they take on entirely new looks. It's worth it to invest in new lighting, whether it's a dramatic hanging light over the dining room table or task lighting in dim spaces.

~ Weatherproofing: Improving windows, doors, weatherstripping, and insulation in a home can offer visual appeal and help homeowners save money. The initial investment may be significant, but those costs will pay off in energy savings. According to One Main Financial, space heating is the largest energy expense the average American homeowner has, accounting for around 45 percent of all energy costs.

~ Mudroom: Turn an entryway into a more functional space with the addition of cabinets, benches or custom-designed storage options that perfectly fit the area. Cubbies and cabinets can corral shoes, umbrellas, hats, bags, and much more.

~ Accent updates: Any space, whether it's inside or outside a home, can get a fresh look with new decorative accents. Invest in new throw pillows and even slipcovers for living room sofas. Use new tile or paint the brick on a fireplace in a den, then update the mantel with decorative displays. Purchase wall art that can bring different colors into a room. Change the cushions on deck furniture and buy color-coordinated planters.

These subtle changes will not cost as much as full-scale renovations, but they can still help homeowners transform their homes



THOFSON
PLUMBING, HEATING & COOLING
Full Service Plumbing, Heating & Cooling
Commercial, Residential & Remodeling

Tim Thofson
Bus.: 641-324-3253
Cell: 641-390-0864
2000 Central Ave. • Northwood, IA

Interiors by Gretchen
Interior & Exterior Painting
Wallpaper Removal
Plaster Repair of Ceilings & Walls
Faux Finishes • Wood Refinishing
Gretchen Hengesteg
641-390-1003
Color Consultations • Unique Decorating Ideas • Specializing in the Restoration & Renovation of Older Homes
General Handyman Services

Brian Kvam Construction, LLC
General Contractor
Licensed & Insured in both MN and IA
MN License # BC580036
Phone: 507-402-1998
Fax: 641-324-1571
1067 510th Street, Northwood, IA 50459



Upgrade bathroom safety features

Bathrooms can benefit from updates that improve their form and function. While styles and color patterns may inspire bathroom renovations, improvements to safety also should be considered.

Bathrooms can be one of the most dangerous rooms in a house. Bath and shower areas account for about two-thirds of accidental injuries in these spaces. Many other injuries involve the toilet. In 2008, a thorough investigation of bathroom dangers conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that mishaps near the bathtub, shower, toilet, and sink caused an estimated 234,094 nonfatal injuries in the United States among people aged 15 years and older.

Seniors are particularly vulnerable in the bathroom due to reduced mobility and flexibility, visual impairment and other factors. However, some key modifications can make bathrooms much safer for aging populations.

• Raised toilet seat: Install an ADA-compliant raised toilet seat. Standard toilet seats are roughly 15 inches high, but elevated seats can raise the bowl an additional two to four inches. Another option is to invest in risers that can be attached to an existing toilet.

• Grab bars: Seniors may use towel holders as grab bars, which donÕt have stability and can dislodge from the wall. Install secured side grip bars by the toilet and inside the shower to make maneuvering easier.

• Water temperature: Seniors may be vulnerable to hot water temperatures. Lower the water temperature setting on the hot water heater. StaySafe.org recommends 120 F.

• Faucets: Change faucet handles to paddle-style handles rather than knobs. Knobs can be challenging to grip for those with arthritis in their hands. Also, handles that are easier for seniors to use can reduce the risk of the elderly losing their balance as they attempt to gain leverage to turn the water on and off.

¥ Nonslip mats: Nonslip mats or tape strips can be used in showers and tub bottoms, as well as outside of the shower to reduce the risk of slips and falls. Rugs should have rubberized, slip-resistant backing.

• Rounded corners: Choose counters and fixtures with rounded corners. Should a senior fall against something, the rounded corner may prevent serious injury.

• Shower benches and transfer seats: Benches and transfer seats make it easier getting in and out of the shower. Also, sitting while showering reduces the risk of becoming light-headed or losing balance.

• Walk-in tubs/showers: Minimizing the threshold to the shower or bathtub is an important safety feature. Some manufacturers make walk-in tubs with doors that secure and make watertight seals. Showers that donÕt have a lip or tub to scale also are better for seniors.

• Lighting: Eyesight weakens over time, so improve lighting with combinations of overhead lighting and softer side lighting. Night lights or soft-glowing toilet lights can make it easier to get around the bathroom in the middle of the night.

These are just some improvements that can create safer bathroom environments for seniors.

CENTURY 21 PREFERRED • CENTURY 21 PREFERRED
GET IT SOLD!
Keep these things in mind when selling your property:
• Hire a professional REALTOR®
• Be clean and clutter free
• Make necessary repairs
• Freshen with new neutral paint
• Market with Multiple Listing Services and as many websites as possible
We at CENTURY 21, list on over 200 websites!
www.masoncitymls.com
www.century21preferredteam.com
www.century21.com
www.seeiowahomes.com
www.realtor.com
www.julierobb.com
trulia, zillow
and many more!
also available on C21 phone app!
www.julierobb.com
CENTURY 21 PREFERRED
JULIE HAGEN ROBB
REALTOR®/ Broker Associate
641-390-0007
513 Central Ave.
Northwood
641-324-2733
CENTURY 21 PREFERRED • CENTURY 21 PREFERRED



Why it pays to hire contractors for home renovations

A sense of pride comes from a successful do-it-yourself home improvement project. However, quite often inexperience and time constraints lead homeowners to turn to professional contractors to make sure jobs get done correctly and on time.

Allied Market Research reported in 2021 that the home improvement services market is predicted to reach $585.3 billion by 2030. The following are some reasons why renovation-minded homeowners benefit from the services of professionals.

~ Tasks can be overwhelming: A home remodel is a large undertaking with many different steps. Contractors who have been around the block a time or two understand how to organize and manage time to get the job done. Plus, they're devoting all of their attention and time toward the remodel when on the job. This differs from when a do-it-yourselfer tries to work on a remodel in between other responsibilities.

~ Network of suppliers: A good general contractor will have a list of material suppliers he or she routinely uses. Often contractors become preferred sellers, which means they get a lower wholesale rate, and will often pass those savings on to the customer.

~ Licensed and bonded protection: Licensed and bonded contractors not only have the skills for the job, they have insurance protection behind them. Therefore, if an injury occurs or the job goes awry, the homeowner will be protected from liability. A license means the contractor will have to uphold licensing standards, which could mean staying current on trade practices and skills.

~ Expertise: Experienced contractors have done the work they have been hired to do many times, which means their skills are fine-tuned. Knowing the correct way to do a job results in fewer errors (and thus fewer repairs), shorter time periods to get the work done, and potentially lower costs overall.

~ Frees up time: Homeowners who hire out for remodels can utilize their time in other ways, such as on the job or spending time with family.

~ Reduces stress: Putting the work in capable hands means homeowners do not have to educate themselves about how to do the task, purchase tools, prevent injuries, and/or deal with potentially negative outcomes. Certainly having extra people in the house can be challenging, but it may not equal the stress caused by tackling a job on ones own.

There are many advantages to hiring contractors to renovate a home instead of taking the DIY route

Local contractor
~ Residential
~ Interior and Exterior
Brad Logeman
Construction
641-390-0785

YOU CAN TRUST THE
DURACLEAN DIFFERENCE
Duraclean
For Carpet & Furniture
No Scrubbing, No Soaking, No Steaming
Safe, Gentle Foam Lifts Out Dirt
Water Restoration
Ask for Durashield Plus Soil, Stain Protection with Dupont Teflon
~ AIR DUCT CLEANING ~
Air Duct Cleaning Helps. . .
~ Remove Mold & Allergens
~ Reduce Dust & other Pollutants
~ Helps Furnace Efficiency
FREE QUOTATION
DURACLEAN By DOUG
641-592-5772
Doug Hanna ~1003 Washington • Lake Mills, IA

CUSTOM SHOWER ENCLOSURES





WINDOW REPLACMENT



- Window, Glass, Screen Repair & Replacement
- Fogged Thermal Unit Replacement
- Complete Residential & Commercial Lock Service
- Commercial Store Fronts & Hollow Metal Doors/ Frames
- Windshield & Autoglass Repair & Replacement
- Custom Mirrors

"We Have Unlocked The Answer To Client Satisfaction"

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

SOUTHERN LOCK & GLASS

LOCKS GLASS DOORS AUTO-GLASS

316 Main Court • Albert Lea • 507-373-9446

Visit Us On Facebook at facebook.com/southernlock

www.SouthernLockandGlass.com