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Hartford Courant

# CTHOME & REAL ESTATE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2016



MICHAEL PARTENIO

AN EXTRA ROOM can easily be converted into a sitting room or library with just a few minor modifications.

## EMPTY NEST

# SPACE AVAILABLE

Breathing New Life Into Your Children's Old Bedrooms

By **SARAH WESLEY LEMIRE**  
 Special to The Courant

**W**hen the oldest of Shelley Arenson's three children stopped living at home during summer college breaks, the East Lyme resident kept the bed in his room for occasional visits, but eventually repurposed the rest of the unused space.

"It became a sewing room about two or three years ago," she said.

A longtime enthusiast of the hobby, Arenson grew up sewing and still does, making clothes, quilts and doing occasional side jobs for friends and acquaintances. Having a dedicated space in which to work, she said, has made it more convenient.

"What I like best is that if I'm in the middle of a big project, I can just close the door on the mess," she said.

Though she doesn't consider it an aesthetically appealing room, it's a functional one, housing all of her equipment and sewing accessories

**REPURPOSING, H3**



BRIAN URSO

**SOME** empty-nesters take advantage of their newly available square footage to create rooms they've always wanted, like this one, used to display art.

## AWAY FROM HOME

### Garden Club Events

The **Connecticut Daylily Society** will meet Saturday, noon, at the Avon Senior Center. Karol Emmerich of Springwood Gardens, Jordan, Minn., will discuss "Life Lessons from the Daylily Garden." A social half-hour with a potluck lunch will be followed by Emmerich's program. Free. Information: [ctdaylilsociety.wordpress.com](http://ctdaylilsociety.wordpress.com).  
 The **Garden Gate Club of Mansfield** will meet Monday, at the Buchanan Auditorium of the Mansfield Public Library, Route 89, Mansfield Center. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. and, after a brief business meeting, will feature a presentation on "Photography and Art in Nature" by Nancy Cooke Bunnell. Non-members pay a \$5 fee. Information: 860-428-2541 or [dhultgren@mindspring.com](mailto:dhultgren@mindspring.com).  
 The **Men's Garden Club of Wethersfield** will meet Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in the Pitkin Community Center, 30 Greenfield St., Wethersfield. Guest speaker is Nigel Palmer from the Institute of Sustainable Nutrition. Palmer's lecture will be "Introduction to Sustainable Gardening and Amendment Practices." Free. Information: 860-529-0876.

The **Duck River Garden Club** will meet Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m., at the Old Lyme Memorial Town Hall, Main St. Gather prior to the meeting in the parking lot for the annual members tailgate plant exchange. Bring divisions and/or surplus indoor or outdoor plants to share with others. The program at 7 p.m. will be a "Gardner's Show and Tell." Information: Nancy Strohla [ncs68ct@snet.net](mailto:ncs68ct@snet.net).

The **Westbrook Garden Club** presents Joanna Negri speaking on "The English Garden" on Sept. 27, 7 p.m. at the Westbrook Public Library, 61 Goodspeed Drive. Free. Information: 860-339-5426.

The **Enfield Garden Club** presents meteorologist Art Horn, speaking on "Weather Myths and Mysteries, Folklore and Rhymes," Sept. 28, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's Residence, 1365 Enfield St., Enfield. Information: 860-253-9983.

The **Hardy Plant Society** begins its season Sept. 28 at the Solomon Welles House, Wethersfield, with an "Update on Insect Problems in Connecticut" presented by Katherine Dugas, the state survey coordinator for the Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) at CAES. Socializing and goodies begin at 7 p.m., the program begins at 7:30. Suggested donation of \$10 for non-members. Information: [cthardyplantsociety.org](http://cthardyplantsociety.org).

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