

The Word from Gary



I will be the first to admit it: **I have a brown thumb.** Every spring comes around to remind me of that fact. My Partner Mike is the garden guy in our family. I just enjoy the end results. Mike and his mother speak this foreign language between the two of them. It involves lots of Latin and words with way too many syllables. My vocabulary involves words and phrases such as **“The green bushy plant, and those purple spiky ones!”** Mike just smiles knowingly and pats my hand and tells me that everything will look great.

When I see the first flowers of spring come back after retreating from our gray and drab winters, I always get a big smile on my face. I like watching the neighbors stop on their walks to look at our seasonal display of flowers. Working in the yard with Mike is something I look forward to every year. He just tells me what to move, cut and definitely what I’m not allowed to touch. When he asks my opinion on something in the yard, I know this a trap of the “Do I look fat in this?” variety. After near 16 years I know how to answer that question: “What ever you think is best.” **My Momma didn’t raise a fool!**

After all of the years of watching Mike garden, I have learned a few things. I know that irises are Mike’s favorite flower because they are in bloom around his birthday. **Over the years a bouquet or two of them has come in handy** when I need to get back into his good graces from something bone headed I did. I have also learned that instant lush satisfaction costs far more than a tiny plant at Home Depot, but patience is not a virtue of mine!



A recent trip through Costco resulted in us adding a cool bird feeder to our back yard. We soon discovered we have the Flying Karamazov pack of squirrels living with us. Those **bushy tailed**

birdseed marauders perform the most death defying stunts to get a snack. As I was getting ready for work the other day, I watched in pure astonishment at the great lengths they will go to stuff their cheeks full. I looked down at my phone and realized 10 minutes had just passed. At least now I know what we will be doing in our retirement someday.

I hope everyone is enjoying spring too. If you are trapped in an apartment or want to landscape your patch of yard, call me. I will help you find the right loan to encourage your green thumb.





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Inside: My Momma didn't raise a fool!



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The Gay Mafia

We are fortunate to live in a great place where many people who I consider part of the "Gay Mafia" are actually straight! With the arrival of Spring I thought it would be great to introduce a couple of local businesses that I highly recommend and will make the rest of your 2013 better!



Clement Walsh
 Landscape Architecture



Is your neighbor's yard making yours look bad or you have just been staring at the same patch of grass for years and thinking your yard is not living up to its potential? If you are not

sure what you want or what to do first to your yard, contact Clement Walsh. He has a flare for landscape design that comes from years of **designing gardens in Ireland, England, and the Pacific Northwest.** Clement says the careful consideration of clients' wishes and requirements form the heart of any project. He does everything from providing advice during a simple consultation, to full-scale landscape design and project management.



elements
 therapeutic massage



So you over did it working in the yard last weekend and you're knotted up, then you need to go see one of the experts at Elements Massage.

Andrew Kardas left a stressful tech job to find a change of pace. He and his Wife Shelby opened Elements Massage at 1229 NW Marshall for a more rewarding life for themselves. They pride themselves on listening to your needs and employ the proper techniques to deliver a truly therapeutic experience. Andrew says that **it's their philosophy to work with you to exceed your expectations.** From personal experience, I can tell you they have succeeded!

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