



# 2013 HOME IMPROVEMENT



Living Room



Kitchen



Master Bedroom



Downstairs Bathroom

March 31 & April 3, 2013 | Check out 2013 Home Improvement Online at [www.paynesvillearea.com](http://www.paynesvillearea.com)



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Jon and Danielle Thielen built their new walkout rambler on a wooded acre lot across from North Browns Lake in Eden Valley. The couple, with four young children, had outgrown their previous home. The curve of their new house mirrors the slope of the lot.

## Thielens build new house to accommodate family

*With four kids, Jon and Danielle Thielen had outgrown their previous home*

By Michael Jacobson

With four young kids – ages 7, 5, 3, and 1 – Jon and Danielle Thielen of Eden Valley needed more space. “We were out-

growing the house we were in, so we either needed to buy or build,” explained Jon. “I liked the potential of the lot back here.”

Having lived on North Browns Lake and with Danielle’s aunt and uncle also living on the lake, they were both familiar with the dead-end street, where they built their new house last year. “I used to live just down the road,” said Jon, “so I knew about these lots. A friend of mine used to farm this land.”

The Thielens actually sold their house in October 2011 and, with nothing on the local market appealing to them, decided to build, purchasing a wooded second-tier lot across from North Browns Lake.

Danielle, with the help of their lumber yard, started on the design. “Just an open floor plan,” said the stay-at-home mom of the design. “With the four kids, it’s nice to have it open for them to move around.”

“It’s easier,” agreed Jon of the open layout. “With lots of kids, you know where they’re at.”

Jon – an excavator by day, and also the EV-W varsity football coach – could see from the lay of the lot that a walkout rambler should fit on the back side of the lot. That would use the natural elevation of the lot and keep the flatter front for the yard and driveway, etc. Their rambler curves to mirror the slope of the lot.

It was the first time home building for the couple, who moved in during the first week of November. Jon has experience with the building process through his work, though the excavating is mostly at

the beginning and at the end of house building. “From the start to where we are now, it’s quite a process,” he said.

By design, the house divides into three main sections: the open center section including the kitchen and great room; their master bedroom suite on the far end; and the kids’ bedrooms, laundry room, and mud room connecting to the three-stall garage.

**THIELENS**—See page 2

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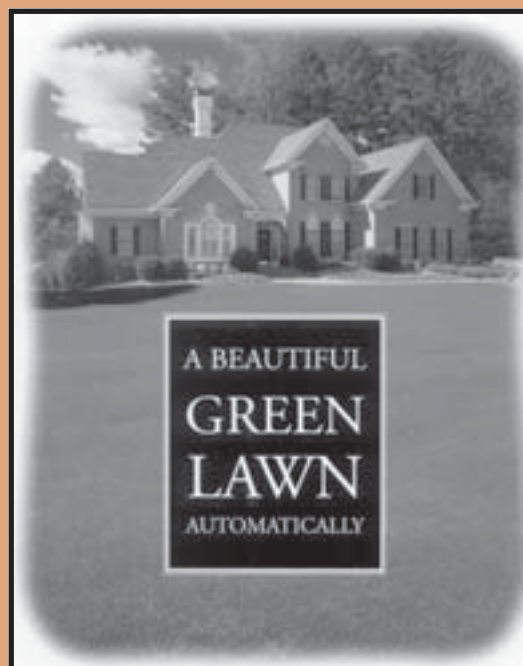
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