

TINY HOUSE

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS



VOLUME 11 :: ISSUE 133
WWW.TINYHOUSEMAGAZINE.CO

JANUARY 2024

ON OUR PAGES



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FEATURED

Between The King and Cerro

Author TJ Butler trades in her keyboard for a camera and tells a story of Lincolnville in historic St. Augustine, FL.

Turning the Page

How do you keep writing about tiny living year after year? Ask the masses and that is just what author Laura Lavoie did this month.

Culinary Charm

Alyssa Korallus of Korallus Tiny Homes help would-be tiny housers choose a stylish and functional kitchen with some visual aids.

Fresh Start

Spring is still a few months away, but there is no need to wait to give your new year and your life a fresh start.

WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE 2024. Winter has finally arrived at our home here in Oregon. In the last couple of days we have received over 16 inches of snow. I know many of you across the county have also been hit with all kinds of winter weather.

In an article by Christina she says the New Year is the perfect time for a fresh start.



Spring is still a few months away, but there is no need to wait to give your new year and life a fresh start.

This month, we have some informative articles, starting with “How to Choose a Trustworthy Tiny Home Builder.” This is a must-read if you are in the market for a tiny house.

Along these same lines, M. J. Boyle gives some sound advice on not believing everything you see on TV. “Don’t Believe Everything You See on Tiny House TV.” She shares 3 myths that come out of the reality TV world about tiny homes.

Are you interested in cooking in your tiny space? Check out the article “Culinary Charm in Compact Quarters: Top 3 Stylish Kitchens.” Take your eating to the next level with these kitchens.

Is 2024 your year to start living in your own tiny home? Are you ready financially to do this? Josh Becker shares “12 Financial Challenges You Could Try in 2024.” These are great tips to help you get started this year. Happy New Year!

Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief



How to Choose a Trustworthy Tiny Home Builder

Essential Tips from Movable Roots





With the growing popularity of tiny homes, it's vital to be vigilant in selecting a reputable builder. At Movable Roots, we understand the importance of this decision and are committed to helping you navigate the process. If not choosing Movable Roots as your tiny home builder, here are our top recommendations for vetting a professional tiny home builder and avoiding scams.

1. Visit the Builder's Warehouse

- **Why It's Important:** Confirming the builder has a physical, professional location is key to assessing their legitimacy.
- **What to Look For:** A dedicated warehouse, as opposed to a makeshift backyard setup, indicates a serious, equipped builder who constructs homes in a controlled environment.

2. Check for Proper Insurance

- **Why It's Important:** Insurance safeguards you against unforeseen incidents during the construction of your tiny home.
- **What to Check:** Ensure they have comprehensive insurance covering their warehouse, employees, and your build.



3. Verify Craftsmanship

- **Why It's Important:**
The skill of the builders directly influences the quality and durability of your tiny home.
- **How to Verify:**
Read reviews, ask for past client testimonials, and, if possible, speak directly with previous customers for honest insights.

4. Seek Certifications

- **Why It's Important:**
Certifications can indicate a builder's dedication to quality and adherence to industry standards.
- **Our Credentials:**
Movable Roots is proudly certified by Pacific West Associates, reflecting our commitment to excellence.

5. Be Cautious with Social Media Transactions

- **Caution Needed:**
Social media can be a hotbed for scammers. It's crucial to verify the authenticity of builders you find online.
- **Best Practice:**
Avoid sending deposits to someone you've only met virtually. Always arrange an in-person meeting.

6. Do Your Due Diligence: Interview, Review, Visit

- **Interview:**
Ask about their building process, timelines, and materials. Importantly, request to review examples of their build contracts to understand terms, warranties, and expectations clearly.
- **Review:**
Investigate their background, inspect their previous works, and read client feedback.
- **Visit:**
Seeing a completed project in person can provide valuable insight into their craftsmanship and attention to detail.

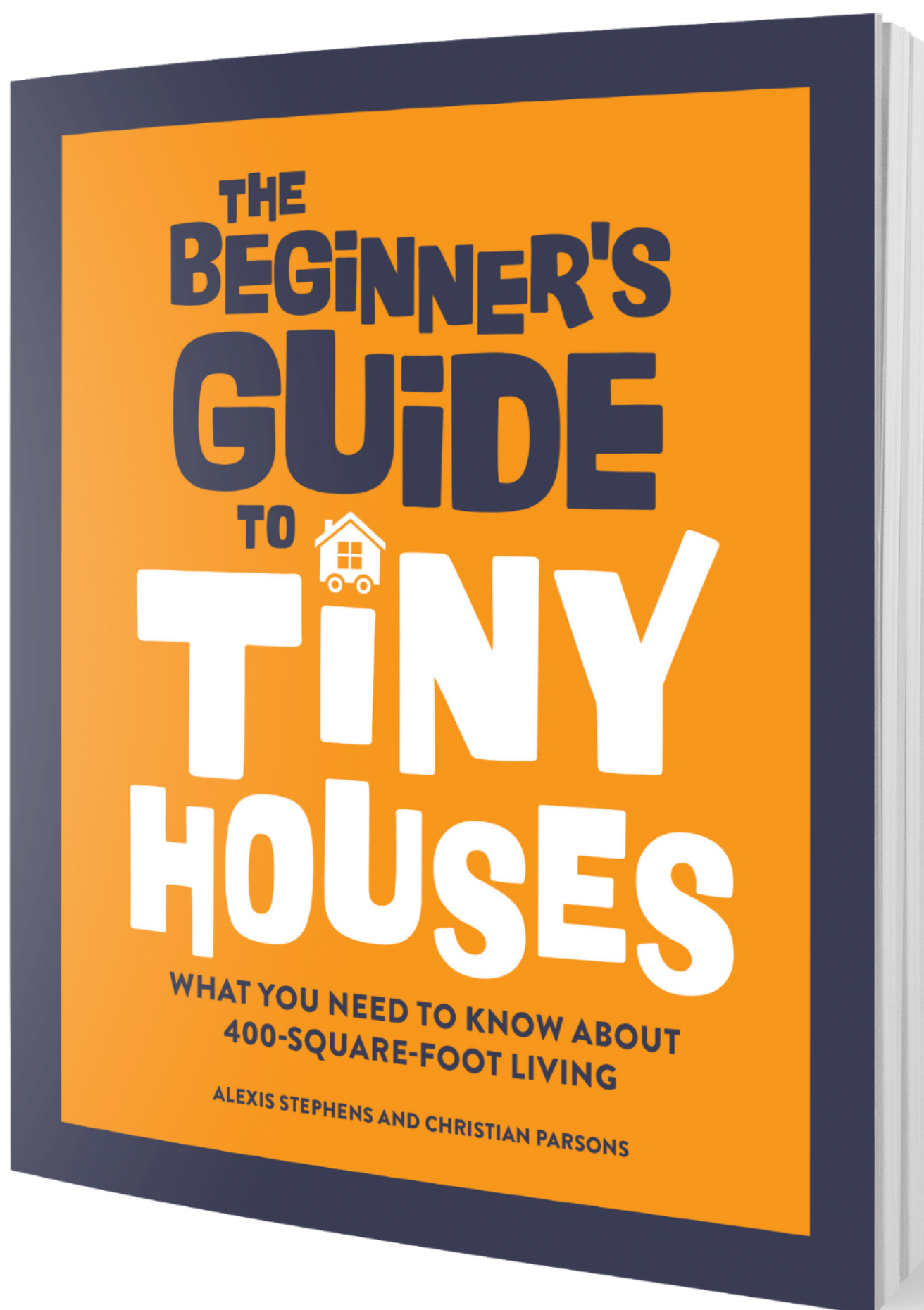


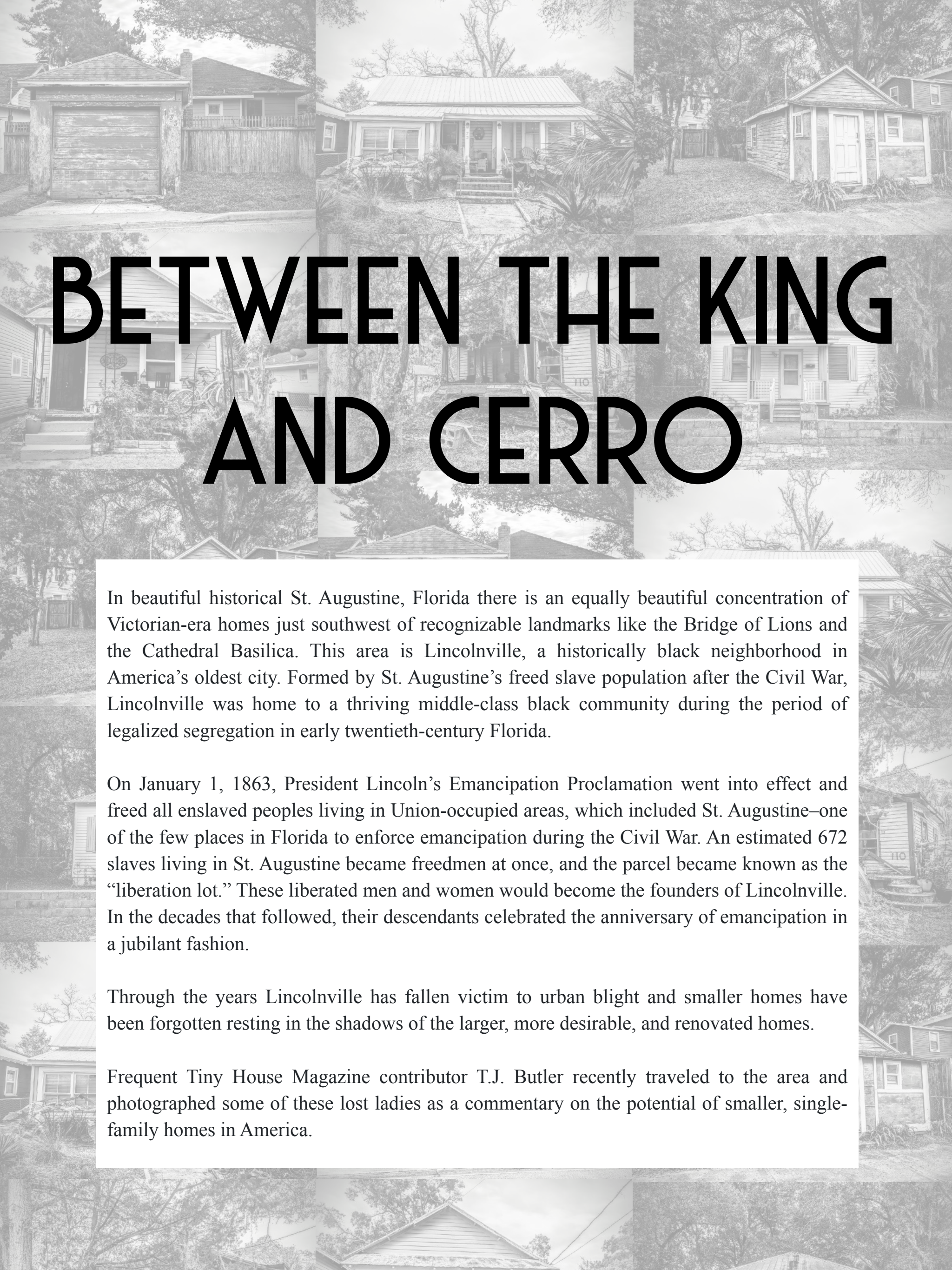
Selecting the right builder for your tiny home is crucial. At Movable Roots, we encourage you to thoroughly research and interact with potential builders to ensure a reliable and professional partnership. Your dream tiny home deserves a foundation built on trust and expertise.



"Your thorough guide to tiny house living, full of time-tested advice from legendary tiny house dwellers and travelers."

—Ethan Waldman, host of the Tiny House Lifestyle Podcast





BETWEEN THE KING AND CERRO

In beautiful historical St. Augustine, Florida there is an equally beautiful concentration of Victorian-era homes just southwest of recognizable landmarks like the Bridge of Lions and the Cathedral Basilica. This area is Lincolnville, a historically black neighborhood in America's oldest city. Formed by St. Augustine's freed slave population after the Civil War, Lincolnville was home to a thriving middle-class black community during the period of legalized segregation in early twentieth-century Florida.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation went into effect and freed all enslaved peoples living in Union-occupied areas, which included St. Augustine—one of the few places in Florida to enforce emancipation during the Civil War. An estimated 672 slaves living in St. Augustine became freedmen at once, and the parcel became known as the "liberation lot." These liberated men and women would become the founders of Lincolnville. In the decades that followed, their descendants celebrated the anniversary of emancipation in a jubilant fashion.

Through the years Lincolnville has fallen victim to urban blight and smaller homes have been forgotten resting in the shadows of the larger, more desirable, and renovated homes.

Frequent Tiny House Magazine contributor T.J. Butler recently traveled to the area and photographed some of these lost ladies as a commentary on the potential of smaller, single-family homes in America.









DON'T BELIEVE EVERYTHING
YOU SEE ON TINY HOUSE TV



WRITTEN BY M.J. BOYLE



I have a love-hate relationship with tiny house reality TV shows. Speaking on behalf of the industry as a whole, we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for reaching millions of now-tiny-house enthusiasts.

Speaking on behalf of the builders, however, 3 tiny house assumptions are perhaps unintentionally stoked by the shows that desperately need to be clarified:

Myth #1: Building a Tiny Home is Easy

Assuming that we're talking about a structure that includes a fully functional kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom, with insulation, and built to the same approximate standards as a conventional home; tiny homes are much more difficult to build than a home on a foundation. They are much much more difficult to design to ensure everything fits in such a minuscule footprint, and much more difficult to build since everything that is used has to fit on an 8-foot-wide platform AND weigh less than the trailer can carry.



Myth #2: Building a DIY Tiny Home is Cheap

I started my first build in 2014 and I am currently working on my 9th personal tiny home build. Per square foot, tiny homes are the most expensive dwellings you can buy. I am better than most at finding reclaimed materials and used trailers but after adding up all the expenses for my latest project, it is going to cost me almost \$30,000 to complete the build; not including the



land or the hookups already in place. My second tiny home build was only \$12,000 in 2016.

Myth #3: Finding Land to Legally Live in a Tiny House is Easy

Although there are many, many more resources now than when I started my tiny house story in 2014, we have a *loooong* way to go until they are universally accepted and regulated as what they are. So many jurisdictions are still unsure if a tiny home is an RV or a dwelling. Some counties don't care at all, and some counties, and many cities, ban them completely. The farther you go from big cities, the easier it gets but make no assumptions about the regulations that are there now since they can and do change.

If you're looking for an excuse not to build a tiny home you can nod your head and

agree with everything I have just written.

They're not easy, legal, or cheap.

They are, however, life-changing.

And nothing so important that can so completely change your life is EVER easy!

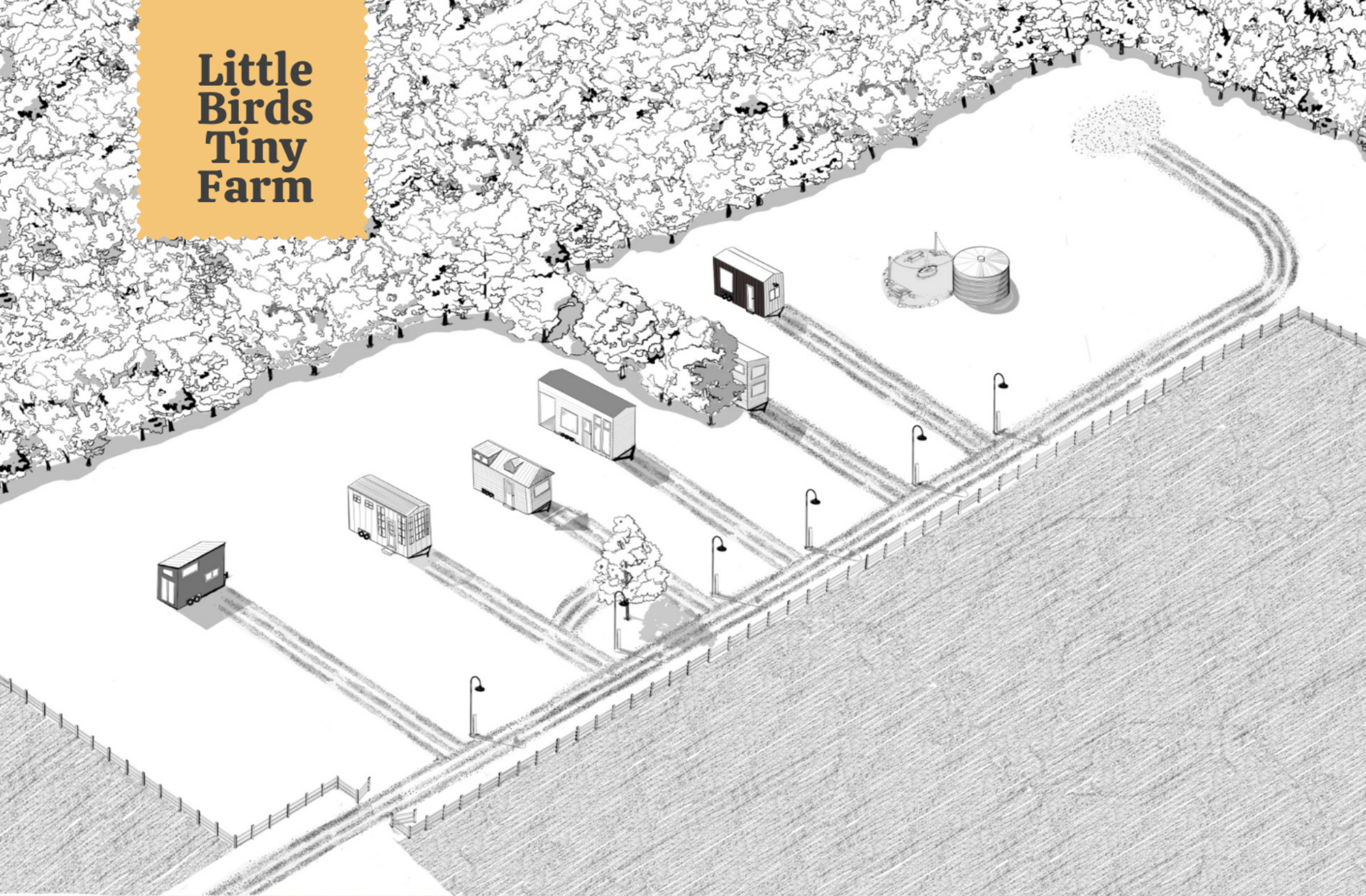
If you're looking for inspiration, ideas, resources, and awesome stories by builders who have put their heart and soul into their builds set aside their fears, and put away the excuses... you've come to the right place.

Tiny House Magazine is and continues to be, a valuable and dedicated resource for the cynical tiny house nay-sayers as well as the inspired dreamers.

Which are you?



Little Birds Tiny Farm



Tiny Farm Living in the North Carolina Piedmont

littlebirdstinyfarm.com

- 11+ Acres of gated pasture, full RV hook-ups, and space to garden
- 30 minutes to Greensboro, Winston Salem, + Martinsville
- Month-to-Month and Annual Leases Available



Culinary Charm in Compact Quarters: Top 3 Stylish Kitchens

Compiled by [Korallus Tiny Homes](#)

In the realm of minimalist living, tiny houses have captured the imagination of individuals seeking to embrace a lifestyle defined by simplicity and functionality. Amidst the creative challenges of designing a diminutive dwelling, the kitchen stands as a focal point, demanding a delicate balance between style and practicality. With the help of Korallus Tiny Homes - a company known for its style and sophistication - let's embark on a journey into the world of petite culinary spaces, exploring the art of choosing a kitchen that not only maximizes efficiency but also radiates with undeniable style.

1. Space-Conscious Elegance

Tiny house kitchens thrive on the principles of space efficiency, necessitating a curated selection of sleek and multifunctional elements. Opt for compact appliances that seamlessly blend into your chosen aesthetic, providing the necessary tools for culinary brilliance without compromising on visual appeal. Consider appliances with streamlined designs and finishes that resonate with your overall decor scheme.

2. Material Matters

In a diminutive kitchen, every surface counts, and choosing materials is a pivotal decision. Embrace the timeless allure of natural materials such as butcher blocks or quartz countertops, which not only exude a sense of refinement but also enhance the illusion of space. Balance the material palette by incorporating cabinetry in muted tones, allowing the kitchen to breathe and emanate an air of understated sophistication.





In recent years, blue has been one of the most popular kitchen paint colors, and blue kitchen cabinets are a lot more versatile than one might expect. Rich tones, like midnight and navy blue, evoke warmth and moodiness. This particular kitchen design is called the Custom Casita and features U-shaped functionality with a ton of storage.





3. Clever Storage Solutions

The key to a stylish tiny house kitchen lies in the art of organization. Integrate open shelving to showcase your culinary essentials, turning everyday items into decorative accents. Select cabinets with integrated storage solutions, making use of every nook and cranny to stow away utensils and cookware discreetly. Magnetic strips and hooks can transform unused wall space into a functional yet visually striking storage haven.

4. Lighting Magic

Illuminate your compact culinary haven with thoughtfully chosen lighting fixtures. Pendant lights above the kitchen island or countertop not only provide focused task lighting but also serve as statement pieces, injecting a touch of personality into your cooking space. Consider warm-toned bulbs to create an inviting ambiance, ensuring that your tiny kitchen becomes a radiant hub for culinary creativity.



If you're tired of running between your fridge and your deck while you're hosting outdoors, consider adding a pass-through kitchen window. Many tiny houses in the last five years have made this design feature standard. Whether it be a sliding window, an accordion window, or just an oversized window, the option will let you efficiently pass food and drinks back and forth between the kitchen and your expanded entertaining space.

5. Artful Accents

Tiny house kitchens offer a canvas for personal expression, encouraging the infusion of artful accents. Select a theme or color palette that resonates with your taste, and sprinkle in decorative elements such as vibrant tiles, textured backsplashes, or art pieces to elevate the visual appeal. The artful integration of these details will transform your petite kitchen into a stylish haven that reflects your unique personality.

In conclusion, the journey to choosing a kitchen for a tiny house is an artful exploration of space, style, and functionality. Embrace the challenge with enthusiasm, viewing your compact culinary space as an opportunity to curate a haven where style and practicality coexist harmoniously. By blending thoughtful design choices with a dash of creativity, you can craft a tiny kitchen that transcends its size, becoming a stylish sanctuary for culinary inspiration.





There is nothing quite like a classic kitchen and this 'OG Kitchen' by Korallus Tiny Homes proves that classic lines, ample storage, a beautiful farm sink, vintage-inspired appliances, and a timeless floor, make for a functional and gorgeous tiny home kitchen!

Turning The Page

Topics for Tiny Home Discussions in 2024

Written By Laura M. LaVoie

Sitting down to write this article, I stared at a blank page. I have been writing about tiny homes for 15 years now. I started back on LiveJournal when I thought no one cared about what I had to say. That expanded to the [Life in 120 Square Feet blog](#) beginning in 2010. Since then, I have regularly written for publications like Tiny House Magazine. I love to talk about the philosophy of tiny living: the *Why-To* rather than the *How-To*. But after so many years, sometimes I feel like I'm just repeating myself. I crowdsourced some ideas on social media. The ideas were so good I couldn't pick just one. In this New Year, I wanted to start the conversations we should have in 2024.

Making Room for the Things You Love

Two people mentioned this idea. One friend wondered if downsizing meant giving up everything or if you could have a storage unit. Another echoed something I've said for a long time: **living tiny doesn't mean you have to live in austerity. It's about making room for the things you love.** If the thing you love is minimalism, that's great. If you want to do cosplay and home mixology, like me, you don't have to sacrifice those things to go tiny.

Beauty of Simplicity

I have an entire book on this subject. There are so many books and blogs about building a tiny house, but so few about living in one. Or, more importantly, embracing the tiny philosophy. I also believe you don't need a 120-square-foot home to live in intentionally. There is

beauty in simplicity, and having fewer things can give you a lot of perspective. It goes right back to making room for what you love rather than what you think you should have.

Cherished Memories

One friend asked about making keepsakes out of treasured memories so you don't have a lot of clutter. While living tiny might mean you don't have your grandmother's entire bedroom set in your home, there are ways to incorporate memories into smaller spaces. Creating a photo album is a good start. You can make a shadowbox of tickets or trinkets to keep them organized and on display. She even suggested making a blanket or quilt out of old t-shirts. There are many great ideas for incorporating things you love into your home without clutter.

Mindset for Tiny Travel

Another person asked about getting in the mindset of tiny travel. While I love to travel, I have never done so in a tiny house or even an RV; save one trip from Michigan to Pennsylvania 22 years ago to pick up a kitten. Our tiny house is firmly anchored to a mountain. But lots of people have talked about their travels. Check out [Tiny House Expedition](#) and [MiniMotives](#) for their perspectives.

Entertaining in Small Spaces

The classic "entertaining in small spaces" is a perennial question. I've written about it before. The best thing about living in a tiny

home is that hosting isn't obligatory. Go to a party somewhere else. Or rent a venue to host your party.

I do like to host and often do in my small home. Sometimes, seating can be a challenge, but we make it work. Or we are outside when the weather is nice.

We would even host friends on our land while building our tiny house. It was rustic camping, and that was fun too.

Expanded Living Spaces

Someone asked how easy it is to expand living spaces in a tiny house. That is also something I've talked about before. Just because you live in a tiny home doesn't mean you're entombed there for all eternity. [We built a deck](#). Having a small space means creative thinking on all levels.

Protecting Your Investment

Finally, someone asked about tiny home insurance. The question is valid; however, the answer is complicated. Not many companies offer tiny home-specific insurance, so it can be challenging. I am no

expert on the subject, but other people have written about it in the past. [Here is what](#)



[Investopedia has to say about it.](#)

Most importantly, I challenge readers to take up the mantle of some of these ideas. Create your blog or submit an article to Tiny House Magazine. Take the conversation to the next level. That's how Tiny Homes became a thing in the first place – we started sharing. People want to know; we need to keep talking.

The End

ON THE COVER



Located just 20 miles from downtown Chattanooga, 16 miles to Rock City, and 3 miles to Cloudland Canyon, a retreat rests on a canyon overlook surrounded by nature and the tranquility only the mountains can provide.

The Artistree House on Lookout Mountain is a luxury treehouse with panoramic views and a spectacular sunset designed and built by the Hicks family (Michael and Teah, owners of Wanderchatt). The treehouse features a fully functional kitchen, (mini fridge, induction cooktop, and convection microwave) a traditional king bed, a queen pullout couch, a projector, and a full bathroom. Outdoors, is a shower, hot tub, firepit, pizza oven, and charcoal grill. Artistree can sleep up to 4 guests but is well suited for 2 guests as there is no bedroom door. It is truly a place to relax, unwind, and get inspired.

The Hicks' first vacation rental was a duplex that they converted into a short-term rental (STR). The first tiny home





unique stay was a 20' shipping container tiny home. It began as an idea and then brought to fruition right outside Michael's office parking lot. After construction, it sat for about a year while the couple decided what to do with it. In January 2020, they began looking for the perfect piece of land that would not only offer a great home for the container but provide an experience in itself. While driving the backroads, Michael and Teah located what would become their first tiny home destination on Lookout Mountain just outside of Chattanooga, TN.

Wanderchatt officially began offering STRs in September of 2020 with the opening of "On The Rocks" - a destination location with 3 shipping container tiny homes nestled on the side of a cliff, overlooking the valley below - on Lookout Mountain. The location offers amazing sunsets and views for miles.

As for the Artistree, construction began in April of 2023 and opened for bookings in October of 2023.

Several people had reached out to the couple looking for a treehouse experience with accessibility. That quickly became one of their goals. Now complete Artistree features reclaimed wood from a furniture store that was over 100 years old such as the heart pine floors, hand-crafted bed, and ladder to the loft bedroom. The antique oak door with the original doorbell was repurposed from an 1890s farmhouse out of Macon, GA. A lot of love went into this one-of-a-kind treehouse. Keeping with their goal Artistree is accessible on the main level and upon guest request, can sleep with the aid of a sofa bed.

Also located on the property is an old pottery studio formerly known as Rising Fawn Pottery. Founded by Charles Counts - a well-known American potter, quilter and teacher - a stay at Artistree includes access to the pottery studio. There you will find handmade pottery on display as well as a welcoming and inspiring atmosphere. The pottery studio is stocked with crafting materials that Artistree guests are welcome to use.







While the Hicks do hire out the major trades like the mechanicals, framing, and plumbing, they focus on building out the interior with repurposed materials, building doors, trim, beds, and headboards. They try to do most of the finishing touches and appropriate details as they can.

Michael is the first to admit that while he wields the hammer, Teah is truly the business. He claims to do the easy part, building and maintaining the properties, while Teah runs the day-to-day, dealing with guests, bookings, cleaners, and the overall operations of the business. She is the heart and face of the business!

Readers can rent this beautiful treehouse at [Wanderchatt's website](#). This rental is not suitable for pets or children under the age of 12 and also does not permit indoor smoking, parties, or events. While it is not certified ADA compliant it is wheelchair accessible.







A-Frame Tiny House Plans

Alexis

[Click Here](#)



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Financial Challenges You Could Try in 2024

Now and then, it's a good idea to stop and think about how we're living our lives and how to make them better.

That is what makes New Year's resolutions so popular. The beginning of a new year is a great time to both look back in review and look ahead to consider making some changes.

According to some studies, **62% of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck**, so maybe our financial habits are a good place to start.

If you want to make your money situation better in 2024, here are 12 Financial Challenges you could try. (This isn't a list where you'd commit to all twelve. Instead, see if one or two make sense for your current financial situation and then put them into place on January 1.)

1. The 52-Week Money Challenge

The 52-week challenge starts with saving just \$1. But if you stick with it, you'll save over \$1,300 by the end of the year.

Begin by saving just \$1 in the first week, and add an extra dollar each week (save \$2 on Week 2). You can even find **printable charts** to keep you on track and will end with \$1,378 by the end of the year.

2. The Single Dollar Saver Game

Every time you receive a \$1 bill in 2024, no matter where it comes from, set it aside.



Periodically deposit them into a separate bank account. Small amounts add up over time. And you might be surprised how quickly those random singles add up over the course of a year.

3. The Weekly Investor Challenge

Choose a dollar amount—maybe \$5 or \$10—and invest it into the stock market every week of 2024.

User-friendly apps like **RobinHood** make this process very easy and have no minimums. (The smartest first step is always to invest in a fund that moves with the market, like **VOO**—or you could follow a system like **Leverage Momentum** if you have more experience and flexibility.)

Learning how money grows in the Stock Market is a great way to become more financially disciplined and learn the real-world benefits of compound interest. Plus, if you use my link above, you can get a free stock just for signing up.

4. The “Community Hero” Challenge

Every month in 2024, donate \$100 to a different local charity. Just decide to do so now and get started right away in January.

Choosing a different local charity every month will broaden your understanding of who is doing what in your local area to solve problems that they see in the world. Your donation will be a benefit to them. Your understanding of the hard work being accomplished in your local area will undoubtedly be an encouragement to you.

5. The Mortgage Shrinker Challenge

Try making one extra mortgage payment next year. This could be spread out over the year or in one lump sum. Either way, one extra monthly payment per year on your mortgage shortens the length of your loan by 4-5 years. As soon as you do it once, it becomes very addicting to do it again. It's very satisfying to see your entire payment pay down the principal.

6. The Emergency Fund Challenge

Decide that in 2024, you will get to \$1,000 in savings (an **Emergency Fund**). To accomplish that, you'll need to save just \$20/week.

If you don't have a separate account for your Savings, I strongly recommend it. You can start one at your local bank or **online** to keep you from spending it.

7. The 90-Day Sprint Saver

If you want to be more aggressive about getting to a \$1,000 Emergency Fund, you can accomplish that in just 90 days by depositing \$84 weekly. It's a short-term challenge with a satisfying reward.

If you aren't sure where you're going to find \$80/week, cut something nonessential out of your usual lifestyle such as eating out, coffee shops, or frivolous luxuries. The "sprint" nature of this challenge allows you to make those adjustments knowing they are only temporary.

8. The Side Hustle Hustle

If you have any financial goals that you've been struggling to meet for a period (paying off a credit card bill or car loan, or getting ahead of paycheck-to-paycheck living, for example) decide to meet them by increasing your income in 2024.

Pick an easy-to-get-started side gig like Uber or DoorDash or **Amazon Flex**. Then, dedicate *every* penny you earn from it towards that specific financial goal and finally free yourself to move beyond it.

9. The Rainy Day Fund

Every day that it rains in 2024, set aside \$10. Mother Nature decides when and how often you save.

10. The Dining-Out Tip Yourself Match-Up

Each time you eat out in 2024, save 10% of the bill into a separate account. For example, if the final bill for your dinner comes to \$26.10, immediately put \$2.61 into savings. Do it every time you eat out (breakfast, lunch, dinner, dessert, or even just drinks).

You're already spending more on a meal than you need to... why not increase the price by 10% and establish some savings along the way?

11. Monthly Spend-Free Week

Pick one week each month to spend absolutely zero dollars except for

groceries. Doing this challenge for just one week per month will help you plan appropriately.

Of course, this is only helpful if you commit to not making radical lifestyle changes to accommodate the week (such as going on an online Shopping Spree every day before your spend-free week begins).

But choosing one week per month where you commit to not spending a single dollar will help remind you of how little you need to spend. The challenge also helps you distinguish between wants and needs, reshaping your spending habits well beyond the 7-day challenge.

12. The No-Buy Year Challenge

Did you know that countless people have revolutionized their lives with a No Buy Year? A whole year is dedicated to cutting out extraneous purchases to reset their spending habits.

I'll put this challenge last as it is probably the most difficult. But lots of people, from all over the world, have accomplished this challenge and so can you if you decide to do so.

Here's some advice on how to do it.

As an additional idea, for those looking to bolster their retirement funds, consider a **Retirement Ramp-Up Challenge**. Make it your goal to contribute more to your retirement fund in 2024 than you did in 2023, even if it's just a small increase. If you are falling behind in saving for later years when your earning potential tends to diminish, every additional dollar saved now can make a big difference.

As I mentioned earlier, I wouldn't expect anybody to try all twelve of these. And maybe for you, financial discipline is already part of your routine—I would hope that reading this blog has helped make that a reality.

But if you know you need a financial change heading into the next year, any one or two of these challenges can begin moving you in the right direction in a fun, helpful way.

Most of these challenges, in the long run, are about more than ways to just save money anyway. They are about changing our relationship with money and the financial decisions we make.

Choose a challenge that resonates with you, and let's make 2024 a year of positive financial change.



Joshua Becker and his young family were introduced to minimalism during a short conversation with their neighbor. Since then, Joshua's story and writing have inspired millions around the world to find more life by owning fewer possessions. Today, based on his thoughtful and intentional approach to minimalism, he is one of the leading voices in the modern simplicity movement reaching over 1 million readers every month.

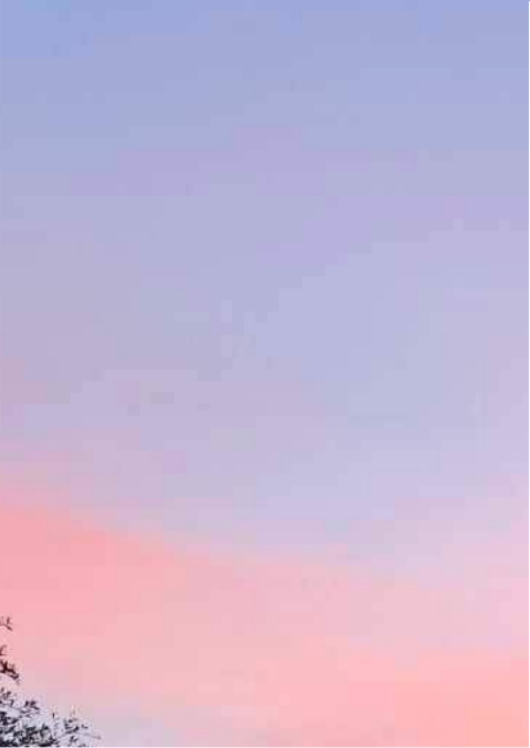
Joshua Becker is the WSJ Best-Selling author of *The More of Less* and *The Minimalist Home*. His new book, *Things That Matter*, is available on Amazon.



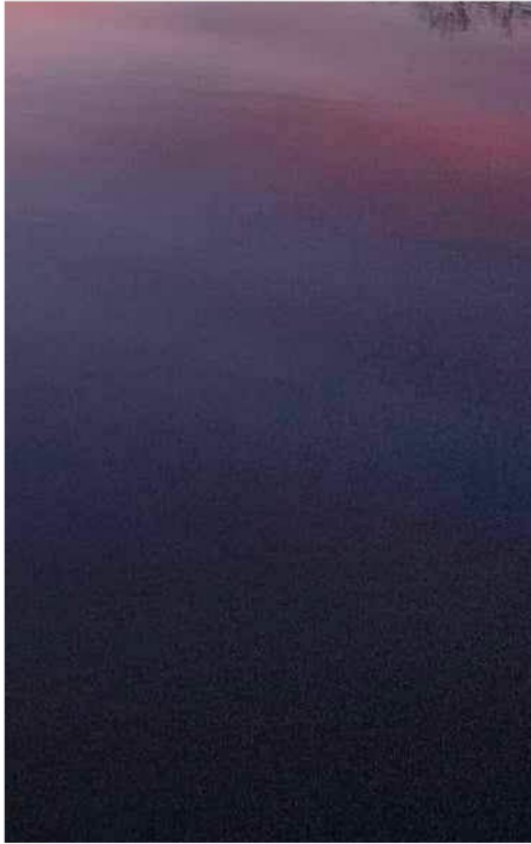
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How To Plan
(when life doesn't go as planned)
.....
The Float Cabin: Part 2
.....
JUNIPERCREEKOUTFITTERS.COM



Written By Contessa Jones



Have you ever set out on a project or idea and thought you knew exactly what you were doing and thought about your timeline, materials lists, and plans? Then nothing has gone according to that plan? That's kind of how it has been for us on the Floating cabin. The plans grew to a bigger cabin requiring more floats, it's cost us more money in materials, and so much more time than we thought! We started the build in September 2023 and here it is in January 2024. It's way over a month past our deadline but getting closer to finishing.

December brought its challenges. We've had two storms bringing heavy rain, wind, and flooding only one week apart. It caused havoc on the lake temporarily flooding campsites, leaving a mess across the spillway, and a few downed trees. Our cabins were all safe. The A-frame was not in danger of flooding, however, our boats were partially underwater. The second storm surprised us. The second one hit the day after Christmas and double whammy our family all caught the plague going around. Starting with our 6-month-old Christmas Eve night and running through everyone for almost two weeks. All of this has put us so far behind on our deadlines and our personal goals.

The Float Cabin held up and did exactly what it's supposed to do

during storms....float. We have a pulley system for the walk boards to get on and to secure from damage during flooding and the winds. It's cross-tied off to anchors in the ground and surrounding trees and poles. However, in the second storm, we were not prepared, and we lost our porch chairs in the lake. We found them and now just have to retrieve them.

The float cabin has had its challenges. We've had to use a fishing magnet to retrieve Tyler's favorite Dewalt drill out of the lake. I made a funny little TikTok of him about to take a polar plunge. We measured and ordered a door for the bathroom. A nice barn wood door. We didn't take into consideration the height of the hardware mechanism and that the door would be too tall. So we've had to rework the door to fit the space. We also had to install the plumbing fixtures, make the pump out access, and then build the walls around the bathroom. The bathroom features an RV-style toilet, a 38-gallon holding tank, a sink, and a shower. Any home makeover

show or tiny house show you see makes it all seem so easy and fun. Of course, it's exciting and fun but it also has its moments of insanity! The gas log fireplace is so close to being a fish structure in the pond. Tune in for the next article to see if it happened! We've called in help from our local gas company technician. Just waiting to find out if it can be fixed and set to a thermostat or do we scrap it and start over with a new heat source. We've also run into a little issue with the roof sweating when it frosts and using the gas heat. Trying to keep the roof and structure light has posed some issues and inconveniences we have to problem-solve. We don't fully have the answers on this yet as it may be trial and error. We also still have to move it into its final mooring site and secure it into place. But how else do you celebrate a huge success if you haven't worked through some confusion and struggle?

Stay tuned. We're going to all be celebrating together soon at Lee Baysden Pond!







FRESH START

5 ways to reset your everyday life



By Christina Nellemann

Spring is still a few months away, but there is no need to wait to give your new year and life a fresh start.

January is a breath of clean air after the chaos and noise of the holiday season. It's a time of more calm, contemplation, and a reset. It's also a time to transform some aspects of your life for the better.

Start the year off right by looking closely at the way you spend your time, do some everyday tasks, organize your home, or deal with clutter. This is the time to scrutinize your decisions and figure out the most efficient way to live.

These five tips might seem a little harsh, but believe me, they are truthful and could change your life.

1. Question everything

This is the first part of the new year fresh start. Start to question everything in your life. Ask yourself if this task you are doing is necessary, if an item you always pick up and use is useful, or if a person you see every day is helpful.

For several years I went to a chiropractor every few weeks. I just got into the habit of going and wondered if he was helping me and my back pain. I realized that every time I left his office, I would be in more pain than ever. I finally stopped going and treated the back pain myself with exercise and yoga. I saved a lot of time and money with that decision.

2. Stop trying to "make it work"

Is there something in your home that you constantly have to "make work"? This could be a giant laundry basket that you try to fit into a tight space, a broken closet door you constantly need to tighten, or items that always need batteries.

Take a good look at each of these things and stop trying to make them work. Maybe that laundry basket can be switched out with a collapsible one that fits into any small space. Replace that broken door with a new one and replace the battery hogs with rechargeable alternatives.

3. Organize or remove the annoying things

We all have those things in our lives that just push our buttons and make life more difficult. This could be a messy garage where we can't park our car (then we have to scrape the ice off the windshield) or a complicated system for doing our household billing. This is the time to either organize or remove what bothers us.

We had a container where we kept all those random charging cords that come with every device. For years we just threw them into the container and then couldn't find what we wanted. One day I dumped the entire container on the floor and went through each cord. I tested each one on all our devices and removed the ones that we no longer needed. I then organized each of them according to what device they belonged to and labeled them. They are no longer annoying.

4. Be honest with yourself

This is also the time to investigate if you are going to do something that you promised to do. Are you really going to use that giant bottle of vanilla extract to make many cakes and cookies? Are you really going to use that indoor exercise bike or treadmill? Are you really going to start knitting?

I was honest with myself over the holidays. While I love Christmas lights and decorations, I dislike taking them down during January. Last year, I kept all the decorations in our house very simple and only put up three or four things that I truly love. I never strung up any lights and kept our tree a tiny desktop one. Being completely honest with myself kept the holidays a lot easier and stress-free.

5. Simplify everyday tasks

Look closely at your everyday tasks and ask yourself if there is a better way to do them. This can include everything from dressing yourself and brushing your teeth to shopping for groceries and preparing meals.

Over the years, I've changed my daily wardrobe to a type of "uniform". I essentially wear the same type of thing every day and just mix and match a select few colors. In the winter I wear either jeans or leggings with a tank top, and a merino top or sweatshirt. The layering helps with the cold and all the colors go together. I don't have to think much about what I put on in the morning.

With groceries, I have systemized my shopping in that I order all my meat from a local ranch and pick it up once a month. I then do monthly shopping for pantry basics like pasta and canned goods. Once a week I shop for fresh produce and maybe a few things I'm missing. Like my wardrobe, grocery items can be mixed and matched to create many different types of meals.

These five tips are different from your everyday decluttering or organization tips. They do require that you dig a little bit deeper and cross-examine what exactly you do in your everyday life.

This is the time to scrutinize your decisions
and figure out the most efficient way to live.



TINY WOOD STOVE
SMALL STOVES FOR TINY SPACES

Keeping it Cozy in Off-Grid Living

A Peek into Lucas' Tiny House

In the ever-evolving landscape of housing, more and more people are looking for alternative living spaces that combine simplicity, sustainability, and mobility. From Tiny Houses and converted vans to Skoolies and airstreams, the journey for a simpler life has started a movement that challenges traditional notions of home, and all the amenities that come with it.



The appeal lies in downsizing, reducing environmental impact, and embracing a sense of freedom. However, living in small spaces comes with its own set of challenges, particularly when it comes to heating. In recent years wood stoves have become a heating alternative not only for Tiny Houses but Skoolies, Vans, cabins, tree houses or other alternative homes. They offer the perfect blend of functionality, charm, and sustainability.

Outdoor Enthusiasts Embrace Tiny Living

Meet Lucas and Natalie, a duo with a decade of adventures under their belt. From a cabin in Minnesota to a sailboat in Wisconsin, their journey led them to their 24' Tiny House, which has weathered -30°F winters in Wisconsin and breezy fields in Minnesota.

Lucas reflects on their journey: "We've been living small for over a decade, from a cabin by Lake Superior to a sailboat in Wisconsin. Going tiny was a natural progression for us, a way to bring the simplicity of our outdoor adventures into everyday life."

A key decision in their tiny house venture was selecting the right heating solution. Lucas and Natalie were drawn to wood heat and wanted an attractive stove with a glass front for ambiance. The search led them to the 4kw Dwarf stove from Tiny Wood Stove.

"We knew we wanted wood heat, and during our research, Dwarf stood out. It had the features we liked, including easy air controls, a burn box, and a glass front," Lucas explains.

The installation process, though initially daunting for Lucas, turned out to be a surprisingly straightforward experience. "I'd never installed a wood stove before and was a relative novice with construction. The installation guides were great, and it all pieced together so easily and straightforward," Lucas recounts.

"After drilling a hole in the wall (wall installation), it was a relaxing process. My years of LEGO experience paid off."

After four years of off-grid living, Lucas and Natalie declare the Dwarf stove as the undisputed favorite feature of their tiny house. "We LOVE the ambiance of it, and it heats and dries us great. If the size makes sense for their space and they want to burn wood, I'm a huge advocate for it."

How Wood Stoves Fit into the Tiny Living Movement

In today's fast-paced and disconnected world, the appeal of alternative living spaces and wood stoves lies in their ability to bring us back to the essentials – simplicity, sustainability, and the warmth of a crackling fire. Wood stoves also offer a sustainable heating solution. Wood is a renewable resource, and modern wood stoves are designed to burn wood efficiently, producing minimal emissions. This aligns perfectly with alternative living homes that prioritize a lighter ecological footprint.

Beyond their practical advantages, wood stoves add charm, coziness, and a sprinkle of whimsy to any living space. In tiny homes, where every element must serve at least one purpose, wood stoves become a focal point for the overall ambiance. Wood stoves are not just heating appliances; they're also aesthetic choices. The warm glow of the fire can turn pretty much any small space into a home.

Tiny Wood Stoves for Tiny Living

The team at Tiny Wood Stove knows the unique requirements of mobile living with a team that's been living in vans, Skoolies, RVs, Tiny, and Small Houses, all equipped with a Tiny Wood Stove. Their stoves not only provide efficient heating but are also easy to install and maintain in these unconventional spaces.

Whether it's embracing the simplicity of tiny living or navigating life on the road, the draw of a wood stove goes beyond heating—it's about creating a personalized home.





OUTDOOR LIVING AT THE

TINY COTTAGE

AT HAVEN RIDGE

Last month we were introduced to Mollie Bradford, owner of the Tiny Cottage at Haven Ridge in Winston-Salem, NC.

Built by Tom and Johanna Elsner of Perch & Nest the Scandinavian-meets-modern tiny home on wheels is just over 300 sq. ft and was built in just 12 weeks! The THOW features cedar siding, a panoramic door/wall, pine shiplap interior walls, custom cabinetry and shelving, a French door shower, a built-in bed with a storage platform, and now a beautiful outdoor deck! With an incredible view of the 56.5 lakeside acres, Mollie's father David and mother Jan own and operate The Little Chapel. The house is just perfect for Mollie and visiting guests.

The newly constructed deck is 40x8' (320 sq.ft.) which doubles the living space! The wrap-around steps were one of the most important elements to owner Mollie to further extend the outside living space onto the edge of the meadows.

As of right now there are no plans for further expansion or to screen any part of the porch but Bradford would love to add a long dining table for entertaining during the warmer months! To add to the ambiance of the home and the meadows there will soon be sunscreens and additional string lights for those summer evening soirees.







Additional Photography By [Matthew Lankford](#).

Mollie Bradford is the Venue Coordinator and Marketing Director of the Little Chapel at Haven Ridge as well as the Co-Owner of Winston-Salem's Picnic Ladies.

She truly is the creative force behind The Chapel, and she's dedicated to making your experience truly exceptional. With a hands-on approach, she collaborates closely with couples, photographers, and vendors to ensure every detail of your special occasion is perfect, from the time of touring to your event day. Mollie not only works on the grounds as the venue coordinator but resides on the property as well. For her, this isn't just a job—it's a lifestyle. Before co-developing the venue and its vision with her father, Mollie immersed herself in the wedding industry as a Bridal Consultant, holding a Bachelor of Arts in Fashion Marketing & Management. As a co-owner of Winston-Salem's Picnic Ladies alongside her sister, Sarah, Mollie is no stranger to entrepreneurial ventures. In 2018, she established her own business, Mollie B. Marketing & Creative.

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