

TINY HOUSE

FOR MICRO, TINY, SMALL, AND UNCONVENTIONAL HOUSE ENTHUSIASTS



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ON OUR PAGES



FEATURED

Discovering Myself in a Tiny House

Embracing minimalism and downsizing your life may or may not help you figure things out. But contributor Sylvia Drake was able to discover herself in a tiny house.

Dog

Ever wonder what a tiny house dog thinks about? Does? In fact, this author's canine pal has a lot to teach us about finding sanctuary through the tiny house movement.

Home Sweet tiny HOME

Not everyone is born knowing about tiny houses. Some learn when they are searching for a space that fits their life and their desires. Look at how one tiny houser did it!

Tiny Home Visionaries

Laura LaVoie is never afraid to challenge us in a number of areas. She's at it again but this time challenging tiny housers to step up and tell their stories. Wonder what I mean?

TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT SOME COOL STORIES ABOUT TINY HOUSES. Imagine living in a house that's just the size of your bedroom, your kitchen, and your living room all rolled into one. Sounds fun, right? Let's dive into some of our stories for this month!

First up, we have a story about someone who found something exceptional while living in her tiny house. She wanted to understand who she was, and guess what? She found herself in her tiny house! It's like finding the perfect hiding spot and realizing it's exactly where you want to be.

Let's talk about dogs next. Imagine if your pet dog could tell you what they think about your tiny house. This story is all about a tiny house dog who teaches us about finding peace and happiness.

Not everyone knows about tiny houses right away. Sometimes, people find out about them when they're looking for a special place to call their own. One tiny houser found their perfect little home by searching for something that fit their dreams.

Lastly, let's chat with Laura LaVoie. She's super brave and loves to challenge people. This time, she's asking everyone who lives in tiny houses to share their amazing stories. It's like telling your favorite bedtime story, but these stories are about real-life adventures in tiny homes.

So, whether you're dreaming about living in a tiny house or just love hearing about them, these stories are sure to inspire you.

Hope you enjoyed this little journey through our tiny house adventures. Until next time, happy tiny living!



Kent

Kent Griswold, Editor in Chief



Discovering Myself in a Tiny House



Moving into a tiny house marked a significant turning point in my life, unveiling unexpected facets of my personality and altering my perspective in profound ways. As a single woman, the decision to embrace minimalism and downsizing seemed daunting initially, yet it ultimately became a transformative journey of self-discovery. Here are three surprising things I learned about myself through this experience.

Firstly, I discovered an innate capacity for adaptability and creativity. The limited space of a tiny house necessitated thoughtful organization and innovative solutions. Every inch mattered, prompting me to reconsider what possessions were truly essential. I found myself repurposing everyday items, maximizing vertical space, and implementing multifunctional furniture to optimize the layout. This process not only

Written By Sylvia Drake

fostered a sense of resourcefulness but also sparked a newfound joy in simplifying my surroundings. Rather than feeling constrained, I embraced the challenge of creating a cozy and functional living environment tailored to my needs. This revelation highlighted my ability to thrive amidst constraints, transforming what initially seemed like a limitation into a canvas for self-expression and ingenuity.

Secondly, living in a tiny house illuminated the depth of my commitment to sustainability and mindful consumption. The shift towards minimalism inherently aligned with my values of environmental stewardship and conscious living. I became acutely aware of the ecological footprint associated with consumerism and the significance of reducing waste. Embracing a minimalist lifestyle meant prioritizing quality over quantity, investing in durable goods, and adopting practices such as composting and recycling. This newfound mindfulness extended beyond material possessions to encompass a holistic approach to living sustainably. I found fulfillment in supporting local businesses, embracing renewable energy solutions, and cultivating a deeper connection with nature. The experience underscored my capacity to effect meaningful change through intentional choices, reinforcing my dedication to living in harmony with the planet.

Lastly, the transition to a tiny house underscored the importance of personal growth and self-discovery. Embracing minimalism facilitated a profound introspective journey, prompting me to reassess my priorities and redefine success on my own terms. Freed from the pressures of societal expectations and materialistic pursuits, I gained clarity regarding what truly brings me happiness and fulfillment. I discovered a renewed sense of autonomy and empowerment in making deliberate choices that resonate with my authentic self. The minimalist lifestyle fostered a sense of inner peace and contentment, prompting me to cultivate meaningful relationships and pursue experiences over material possessions. This shift in mindset allowed me to

embrace vulnerability and embrace personal growth, catalyzing a journey of self-acceptance and self-discovery.

In conclusion, living in a tiny house as a single woman revealed surprising insights into my resilience, values, and personal growth. It challenged me to embrace adaptability and creativity, deepen my commitment to sustainability, and embark on a transformative journey of self-discovery. The experience empowered me to live authentically, with intentionality and purpose, while fostering a greater appreciation for simplicity and mindful living. Moving forward, I carry these lessons with me, grateful for the profound impact of embracing a minimalist lifestyle in a tiny house.



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FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

The Evolution of Ting Living NC





Tiny Living NC is North Carolina's largest information resource for everything tiny houses and tiny living.

In 2020 a burgeoning community was starting to make waves in North Carolina—**Tiny Living NC**. At the time, TLNC was a modest but passionate collective of individuals exploring the possibilities of tiny living. Fast forward to today, TLNC has grown exponentially, and its impact is felt far and wide across the state. This growth has been spearheaded by a number of people but primarily by Mary Gillogly, a tiny house advocate and native North Carolinian, and Peter Chachaj, a DIYer and tiny house dweller. Together they have coordinated everything from gatherings to festival tents, online conversations to house tours. Mary and Peter have made it their personal mission to make the community a success.

I was recently able to speak to Mary and get her thoughts on the evolution of this unique tiny house community.

The Growth and Transformation of TLNC

When I first wrote about TLNC for Tiny House Magazine, it was a fledgling group with big dreams. Now, it's a registered non-profit that serves as a comprehensive resource for anyone interested in tiny houses or tiny living. The community has evolved into a robust, virtual hub that offers guidance on a wide array of topics related to tiny living, including RVs, campers, earthen builds, yurts, vans, and skoolies. If it's a small, space-efficient living structure, TLNC is there to help you figure out how to live in it.

One of the biggest changes over the past few years has been the exponential growth of the community. This growth has brought both

challenges and rewards. Coordinating a group of over 7,400 members is no small feat, but the benefits of such a thriving community are undeniable. Members now have access to a plethora of knowledge that spans the gamut of tiny living, from advocacy and builder reviews to event planning and tiny house development.

A Personal Journey

As I continued to talk with Gillogly I found out that the journey of TLNC's growth has been deeply personal for her.

Having lived in a space less than 500 square feet, she was tiny before tiny was cool! Mary and Peter both are drawn to the tiny lifestyle. Mary has intrinsically felt it's where she belonged since she was a kid. As soon as she had the freedom to choose how she wanted to live, she went tiny. It is important to her and Peter both to not just talk the talk but walk the walk. They want others to know though that you don't have to live in a micro home to enjoy tiny houses. Group members are quick to point out the significant impact TLNC has had on their lives. The Carolina Tiny House Festival, in particular, was a turning point. Seeing the community come together and engage with TLNC's resources solidified Mary and Peter's waning decision to keep the group going.

Engaging the Community

At the Carolina Tiny House Festival, TLNC had a table with a banner and a photo op created by Tara Dunn, encouraging attendees to picture themselves in a tiny house.

At the festival, people were surprised when they found out TLNC was a virtual community as opposed to a physical community. TLNC focuses on providing accurate information about all things tiny living in North Carolina. Over the weekend the most common question asked was, “Where can I put a tiny house legally in [insert county/city]?”

While TLNC can’t provide specific answers for every location, members are able to guide people on how to research and navigate local regulations, a point of pride for Mary and her past efforts.

Expanding the Reach

Over the past five years, TLNC has become a forum of answers and information for general questions about tiny houses. The group’s archives, searchable through a magnifying glass icon under the “invite” button [on the website](#), holds a wealth of knowledge. With over 7,400 members, there are experts who can answer just about any question, even if it’s been asked multiple times.

TLNC also offers resources on tiny house advocacy, builder reviews, tiny house events, and meetups. The goal is to empower local members to host meetups in their communities, creating networks and fostering engagement. Plans are underway for meetups in various locations across North Carolina, including Pittsboro, Raleigh, Greensboro, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Durham, and Wilmington.

Challenges and Realities of Tiny House Development

“One of the most significant challenges TLNC addresses is the complexity of tiny house development. Many people dream of creating tiny house communities, but the

reality is that it’s akin to developing a traditional neighborhood. It involves navigating permits, codes, and planning guidelines and often requires significant financial investment. TLNC helps members understand these complexities, providing a realistic view of what tiny house development entails”, Mary points out.

The Evolution of the Tiny House Movement

The modern tiny house movement has evolved significantly over the years. It has shifted from DIY building classes and workshops to finding reputable builders who use design engineers to ensure sustainable structures. TLNC has adapted to these changes, transitioning from an in-person meetup group to a vibrant online community. Despite efforts to revive older networks, it’s clear that TLNC’s strength lies in its current online





presence and engaged membership.

A Nod to the Past

It's important to acknowledge the roots of TLNC. The initial concept and foundation laid out by Andrew Odom of Tiny r(E)volution. A North Carolinian himself, Andrew leveraged his national recognition in the tiny house world to advocate for state-wide groups like TLNC. He created an strong jumping off point for the current community and his legacy remains.



Moving Forward

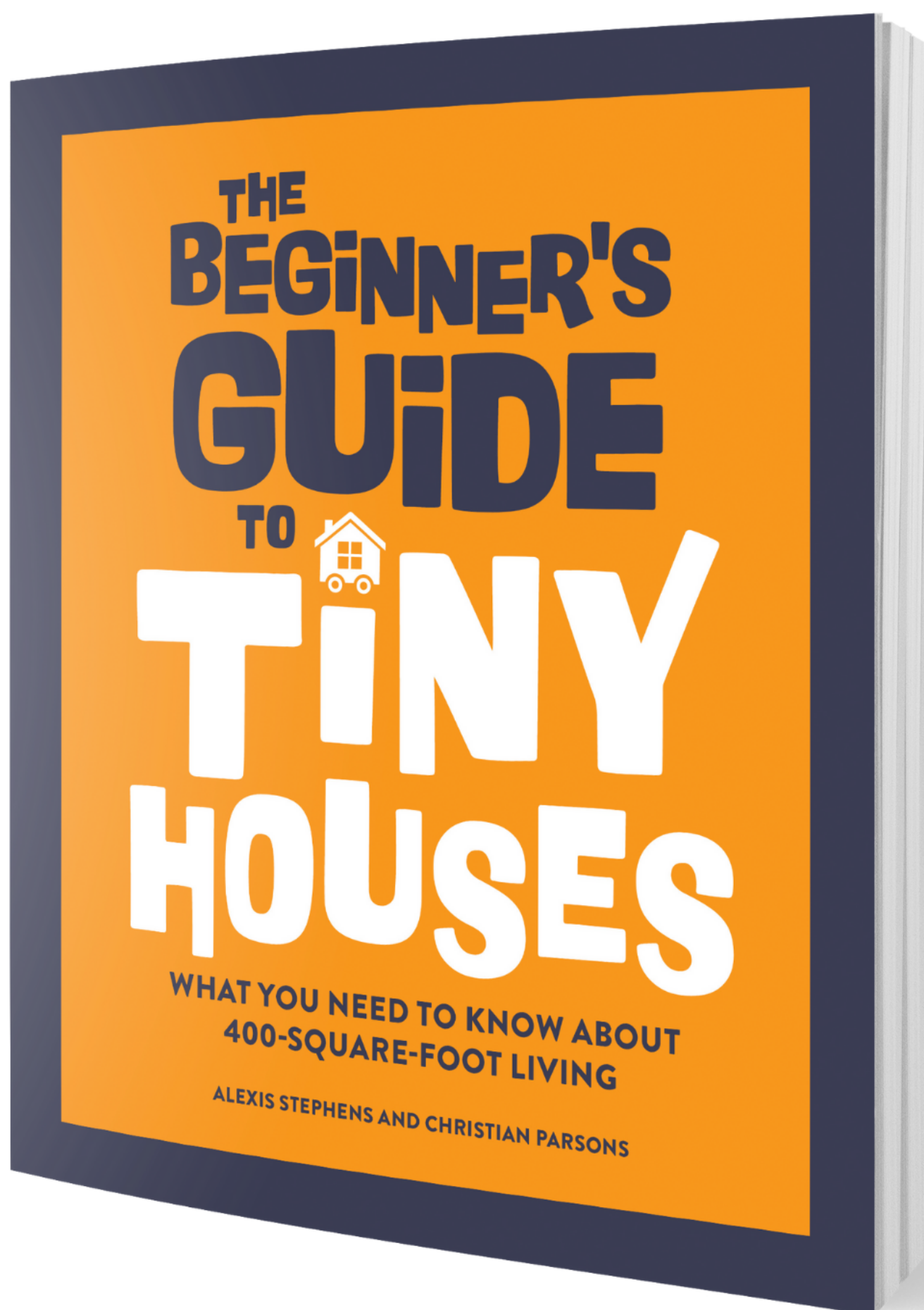
As TLNC continues to grow and evolve, its mission remains the same: to be a free, accessible resource for anyone interested in tiny living. The community will undoubtedly face new challenges and opportunities, but with the passion and dedication of its members and coordinators, the future looks bright for both seasoned tiny house enthusiasts or those just starting the journey.





"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

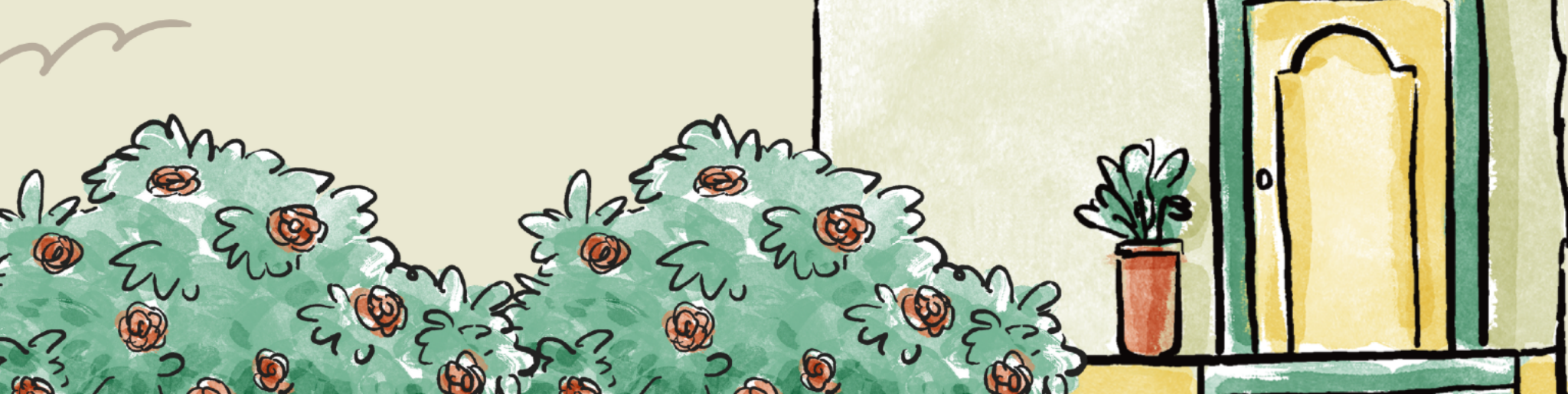


TINY FEST: PROVIDING REAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS TO THE BAY AREA

WRITTEN BY:

Jess Stiles

As communities across the Bay Area search for solutions to the homeless crisis and unaffordable housing in general, TinyFest presents tangible and realistic options. In a place such as the Bay Area, where property is a finite resource, finding ways to provide more housing can be challenging, not to mention making it affordable.



A hand-drawn illustration of a blue cloud with black outlines, located in the top left corner of the page.

According to a **recent report by Chapman University**, San Jose, California is the fourth most expensive place to live in the world. The report shows Hong Kong coming in as the most expensive place to live in the world, Sydney, Australia being second, and Vancouver, Canada taking third place. The cost of housing is the single most important factor contributing to whether a location is affordable or not. It's no wonder why homelessness is such a huge issue in the Bay Area.

In addition, rising housing costs are affecting those on a fixed income more than ever. The majority of people on a fixed income are retired seniors. According to **Santa Clara County in 2019**, nearly 40% of the unhoused population in the County were over 51 years old. This is a devastating statistic for a community. Ultimately, seniors are finding it more difficult to stay in their homes as the costs of utilities, maintenance, and property taxes rise even further. Those without any other options are finding themselves on the street.

In order to address these problems, the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County have taken action. While the City of San Jose is at the forefront of **approving policies** that enable more tiny homes, many people in the community are overwhelmed with navigating the process of buying or building a tiny home or ADU. Understanding the difference

between a tiny home or ADU, learning the building code and zoning laws, and finding a builder and/or contractor for the project can be so much work that many homeowners who are willing to place a secondary housing unit on their property don't know where to begin.

This is where TinyFest provides solutions to communities looking for answers to the housing problem. There are several reasons why a homeowner would want to build a tiny home or ADU on their property. Many people are interested in owning ADUs as a rental income opportunity. Or, they could move into the ADU themselves and rent out the main home, potentially earning an even larger monthly income and providing more financial freedom. Some aspiring ADU owners seek multigenerational housing to expand their family's living space while keeping aging parents or young adults close. This also provides a much more affordable housing situation than each family unit living on their own. Another reason for building Tiny is to live a more eco-friendly and sustainable lifestyle, as many tiny home builders utilize earth-centric building materials. Plus, living small generally consumes fewer resources and produces less waste.

TinyFest provides a venue for community members to tour tiny homes and meet builders. A big challenge for ADU and Tiny Home shoppers

A hand-drawn illustration of green bushes with orange flowers, located at the bottom of the page.



is simply deciding on a layout and placement on their property. Many builders with displays at the TinyFest event offer a full-service process, guiding homeowners from start to finish, including permitting! Attendees can tour the tiny homes, getting a good idea of how the space will feel and if they like the layout. Plus, many tiny home and ADU builders at the event offer several floor plan options and can find a solution that fits everyone's needs.

The event also provides informational presentations from experts in the industry. Attendees can learn about how to finance 100% of their tiny home or ADU, how to permit an unpermitted ADU, how to set up a solar system, and more. These presentations are a wealth of knowledge, giving attendees the information they need to take action on their tiny home plans. In addition, TinyFest also schedules Q&A sessions and panel discussions, providing personal interactions that build community and camaraderie.

In addition, this year TinyFest is celebrating Seniors. Given the unique challenges that the Senior community is facing, TinyFest is providing presentations and products specific to them. Attendees 55 years and older will receive half-price tickets on Sunday, September 15th, as well as a goodie bag including special discounts and coupons. Speakers will be giving senior-specific presentations. For example, Bakari Grant, Co-Founder of [WellNest](#), will be giving a presentation called Solutions for Senior Living. Bakari and his four siblings started WellNest from a desire to keep their grandfather close, while also being able to provide him care and independence at the same time. For those with aging parents, or seniors looking for affordable housing options, you won't want to miss it.

If you're not convinced that TinyFest is a practical solution to the housing crisis, let me give you one more reason: Community. Implementing big



[Tickets](#)

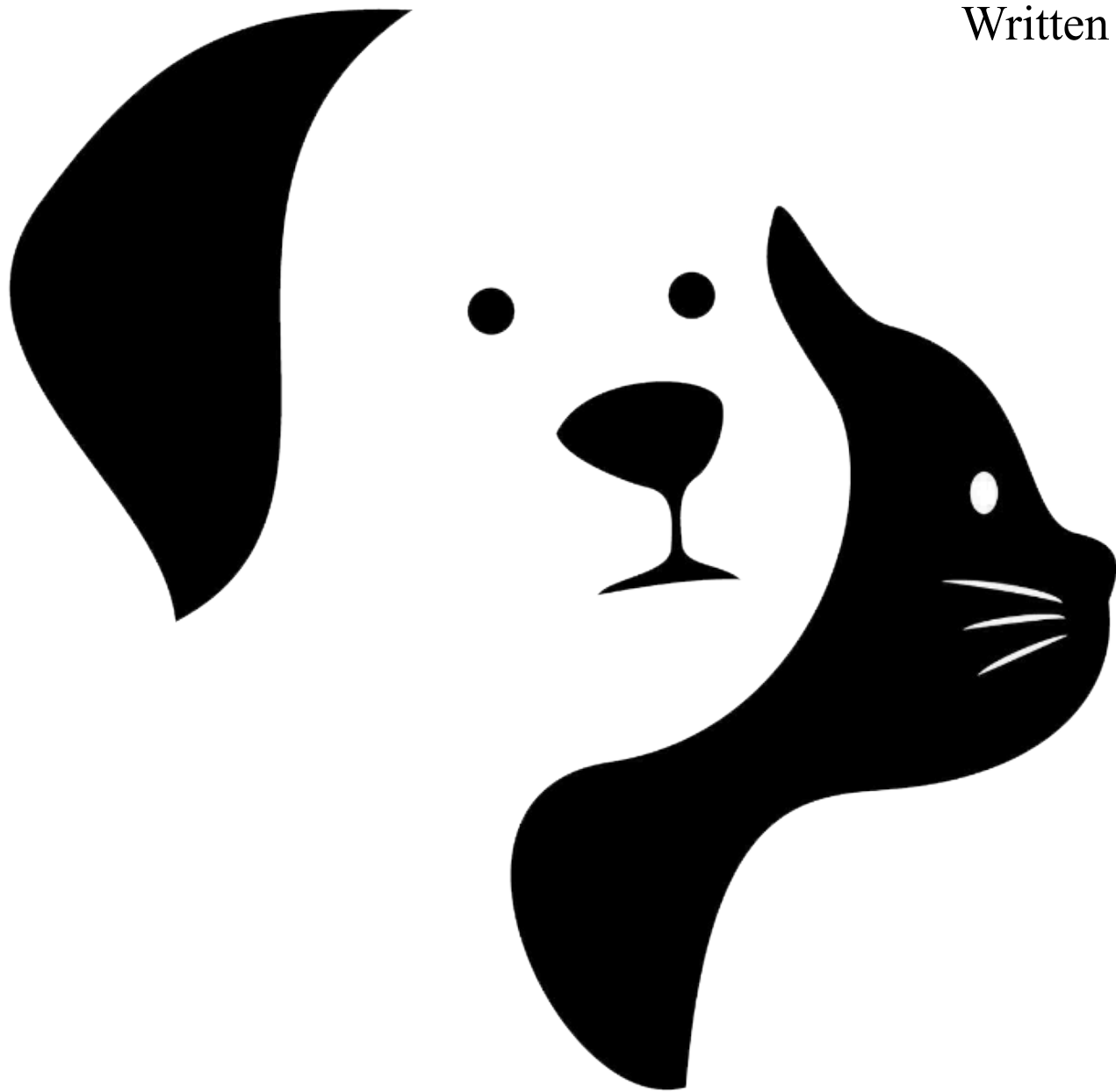
changes can be challenging, and no one is going to tell you that building a tiny home or ADU on a property in California is easy. There are policies to adhere to, permitting hurdles, construction nightmares, and so on. Community is what gets us to the next step of the process. At TinyFest, vendors, builders, and attendees alike are all trying to accomplish the same thing. This vibrant and supportive community is the secret ingredient to making an amazing idea come to life.

Come to [TinyFest - Bay Area Expo](#) in September and see for yourself. If you don't live nearby, make it a long weekend vacation and explore the area while you're there! You won't regret it!



SEE YOU THERE!





Dog | Cat

They call me Chief. I am unsure why, but the name suits me. I feel a deep sense of responsibility for my human. She is small, but her spirit is vast. She spends many hours communing with her magical device, a contraption that illuminates with soft light. I do not understand its purpose, but I believe it is important to her.

Our home is a sanctuary, a compact haven that feels like a den. Within our four walls, we have created a world that is both intimate and complete. *Our tiny house offers a sense of security that allows us to focus on what truly matters: companionship and the simple joys of life.*

I am a protector. It is my nature to watch over those I care for. Though our small space provides a sense of safety, I remain vigilant. Sounds in the night,

unfamiliar patterns, and any deviation from the ordinary fills me with a protective instinct. I stand guard, ready to alert her to any potential threat, real or imagined.

The world outside is a place of wonder and mystery. I relish our walks, where I explore new scents and sights. The squirrels that dart through the grass are intriguing creatures, though I am always ready to defend my human should they pose a threat.

My life is simple. I eat, sleep, play, and protect. But most importantly, I love. I love the rhythm of our days, the comfort of her presence, and the deep bond we share. In our tiny house, we have found a perfect balance of comfort and adventure.

Humans are creatures of baffling habits. This one, in particular, has elected to live in a box. A tiny, absurd box. It's hard to believe that any creature with opposable thumbs would willingly confine itself to such a cramped existence. I, on the other hand, have the sense to make the most of it.

She calls this box a "tiny house." Tiny, indeed. It is barely larger than my personal territory. Yet, she insists on spending most of her time within its confines. I am continually baffled by her choice. The great outdoors is filled with far more stimulating opportunities for exploration and sunbathing. But no, she prefers to sit at a small wooden table, staring at glowing rectangles. It's utterly ridiculous.

I have learned to adapt to this peculiar lifestyle.

The tiny house offers certain advantages. For example, warmth. It's a fact universally acknowledged that a warm lap is essential to feline well-being. My human provides an ample supply of these. Also, the abundance of soft surfaces is unparalleled. There are cushions to knead, blankets to burrow under, and even a human-sized bed that I occasionally deign to grace with my presence.

However, there are drawbacks. The tiny house is a labyrinth of obstacles. Chairs, tables, and other human paraphernalia constantly impede my path. I must employ all my feline cunning to navigate this treacherous terrain. It is a constant source of irritation. And then there's the issue of privacy. There is no escape from this human. She is always there, looming over me, making demands.

I tolerate her presence because she is, after all, my servant. She provides food, water, and endless amusement. But let it be known that my patience is not infinite. **When she fails to meet my exacting standards, I will not hesitate to employ my full arsenal of feline persuasion.** A well-placed paw, a disapproving glare, or a strategic act of defiance can usually rectify the situation.

Life in a tiny house is an ongoing challenge. But I am a cat, and I am adaptable. I have mastered the art of living in close quarters with a human. And while I may never fully understand her obsession with her tiny box, I have learned to appreciate the comforts it provides. **After all, a warm lap and a soft place to sleep are not to be sniffed at.**



Michelle "MJ" Boyle is a patented inventor, an outgoing and accomplished speaker, an enthusiastic Glamer, passionate entrepreneur, as well as the Founder and Creator of My Tiny House Village, Oregon Teardrop Rentals, and My Tiny Creekside Retreat. From Vermont to Texas, and Florida to Oregon, MJ has graced the stages of over a dozen events and festivals and has been featured on the Drew Barrymore Show, The New York Times, Yahoo, MSN, Business Insider, House Beautiful, and Costco Magazine; and in countless articles and videos documenting her creations and her story. Everywhere she goes she brings wit and humor, humility, and expertise; but most importantly, the desire to inspire others to live their own version of Tiny House Heaven.



I'm done.

If you've known me for longer than 5 minutes, you'll probably scoff at this idea, or even laugh. Everyone else has.

I just finished my 9th tiny home in 9 years, *My Tiny Bunkhouse*.

I have built, hauled, remodeled, designed, and decorated 9 tiny homes including my own which I have lived in since 2015.



BEFORE



AFTER

Six of them are being utilized to finance my future, my retirement “plan” as short-term rentals.

One of them was sold to finance a very expensive move of my tiny “village” in 2022.

One of them was auctioned off at the end of a very intense charitable project that resulted in the most expensive tiny home built at that time. (I spent \$145,000 on a 205-square-foot, single-story, luxury tiny home).

But I digress...

It's tough to express how much I am feeling right now. ALL the feelings; sadness, pride, exhaustion, and optimism. I have known for some time that time itself would catch up with me. I have known for some time that age does us no favors and what I could do even a couple of years ago I cannot anymore. I have felt the clock ticking on my future retirement since my realization in 2014 that I HAD NO retirement plan and, frankly, not a dime to my name.

The tiny house movement literally changed the course of my life.

Since I moved into mine, I have poured almost every dime I have made, both from my corporate job and from the businesses themselves, into building my business. I have branded, built websites, and social media pages, spoken at conferences, written articles, been featured in countless online and print articles (*and even on the Drew Barrymore show!*), and now...drum roll....I once again solidify my position as the tiny house builder and designer who has graced more covers of the Tiny House Magazine than any other.

But now, I'm done.

Well, at least with the building part.

My Tiny Creekside Retreat is a small waterfront parcel in Longview WA where guests can come relax for a weekend, or a month; get married, or host a family reunion. My Tiny Bunkhouse was just placed in the last slot in the “RV Park” I built there in 2022 to house My Tiny House Village.

*The tiny house
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What once was a ratty old work shack, not even 8 feet wide, is now a luxuriously comfortable accommodation for 3 people including a full kitchen, bathroom, and even AC! And, the outdoor deck more than doubles the living space for all the non-rainy days we have here in the Pacific Northwest. I have spent \$35,000 in the past 12 months of my own cash to finalize the business plan and design vision for My Tiny Bunkhouse: Modern Nostalgia.

So, now I get to sit and ponder what's next for me.

Maybe I should write a book?

A memoir would be a logical direction but I'm not sure I want to re-live the experiences I spent thousands of dollars worth of therapy over my lifetime, overcoming.

Naahhhh....

I think I'll just take a nap, a long, luxurious nap. I'm done and it feels so good!





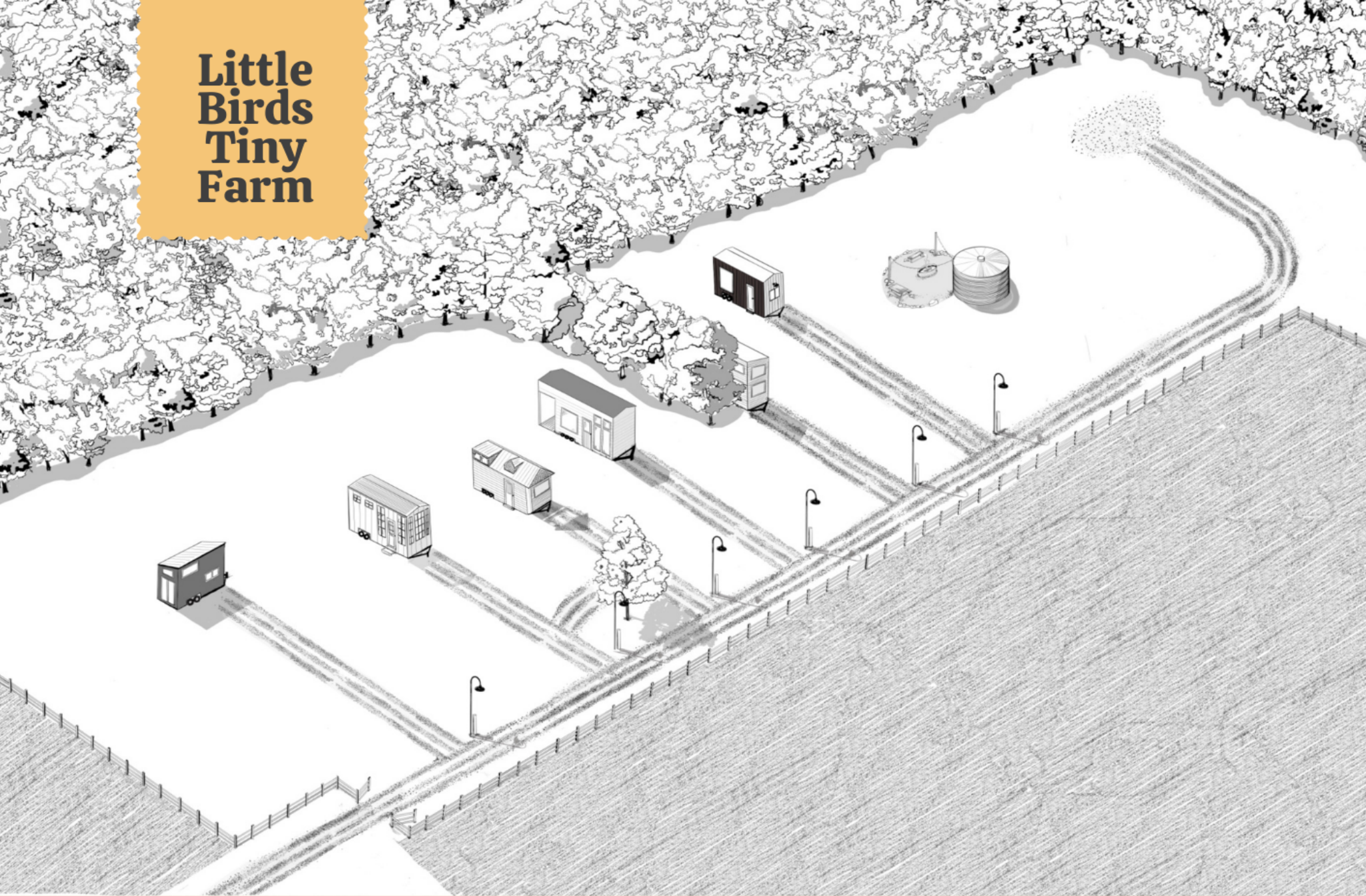
ON THE COVER





photography courtesy of Mark Sharley Photography

Little Birds Tiny Farm



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Decluttering Your Home?



3 Helpful Questions to Ask in Each Room

Create a home that restores your energy, not one that drains it.

There is a wonderful calm and peace that comes from organizing our belongings. It feels good to know where things are stored and how to easily access them.

But let's be honest, organizing is always, only a temporary fix. We sort, organize, label, and find storage solutions today, only to find ourselves repeating the same process tomorrow.

The problem isn't that we're not good at organizing. The problem is that we just own too much stuff.

However, when we take the permanent step of removing the possessions we don't need from our homes, we experience lasting benefits. *De-owning is always better than reorganizing.*

In this way, minimalism isn't just about owning less; it's about creating a life with more meaning and purpose by removing the unnecessary physical possessions that drain our energy.

But how do we make this shift in our own homes?

There are lots of different ways to make progress in decluttering. But one important step is to prepare ourselves with helpful questions that result in faster decisions.

To that end, here are three simple decluttering questions you can ask in every room in your home. I hope you find them helpful:

LIVING ROOM

1. Does this decoration highlight what is important to our family?
2. Does this piece of furniture serve a purpose, or is it only taking up space?
3. Are there any outdated electronics or pieces of equipment that we no longer use?

BEDROOM

1. Is this an item that I truly enjoy having in my bedroom, or is it just there out of habit?
2. What items in this space are keeping me from experiencing better rest?
3. Realistically, how many bedding sets do I need to keep?

CLOTHING

1. If I were shopping right this second, would I buy this?
2. Have I worn this in the last year?
3. Does this piece of clothing make me feel good about myself, or does it carry negative emotions or memories?

BATHROOM

1. Is this item still within its expiration date and necessary?
2. Do I have a different version of this toiletry/self-care item that I prefer to use?
3. Do I own more towels than I use between laundry cycles? If so, which ones are my favorites?

KITCHEN

1. Do I have another item that serves the same purpose as this one?
2. When was the last time I used this?
3. Would my kitchen be more enjoyable to use if I owned less?

PANTRY

1. Is this item expired?
2. Do I know when I would ever even use this ingredient again?
3. Is there someone else in my community who could make good use of this product?

TOY ROOM

1. Can I even remember the last time my child played with this?
2. Is it broken or missing pieces?
3. If I was picking out a new toy at the store, would I choose this again?

HOME OFFICE/PAPER

1. Do I need multiples of this item or is just one enough?
2. Does this item inspire or enable me to do my best work?
3. Am I required by law to keep this legal/financial document?
4. Can I access this document online if I need it in the future?

SENTIMENTAL ITEMS

1. If I was curating a museum for my family, would this item go on display?
2. Could I capture the memory of this item with a photograph instead?
3. Do any of my children want to care for this when I'm gone?



BASEMENT/ATTIC/STORAGE AREA

1. What is the largest item I can remove from this space first?
2. Do I have a specific plan to use this item in the future or am I just keeping it because I have the space?
3. Am I just passing the burden of decluttering this item onto my children/family member?

PET SUPPLIES

1. Does my pet still play with this?
2. Is this still within its expiration date?

3. Do I use this regularly for my pet or is there something else that accomplishes its purpose?

VEHICLE

1. Is this an emergency item that I need to keep?
2. If my car was brand new would I put this in it?

By asking these simple, yet powerful questions, you can begin creating a home that restores your energy and brings peace to your life. And the change will be permanent.



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.*



A-Frame Tiny House Plans

Alexis

[Click Here](#)



Home Sweet tiny HOME



written by Kris Ward



I decided to explore tiny houses for a future project after seeing a few online. Although I liked the idea, I wasn't ready to dive in just yet. As I researched available options, I realized none of the existing models or designs quite fit what I wanted. So, on a whim, I decided to design one myself. I planned to save up money and consider details like the house's final location.

I reached out to Perch and Nest to see if they could help with the blueprints. During our first meeting, they mentioned that USAA offers loans for tiny house builds. After a bit of consideration, I decided to proceed, figuring the remaining details would work themselves out.

To visualize the finished house, I downloaded Home Sweet Home and started fleshing out the basic outline we had worked on. It was a meticulous but enjoyable process, and the house evolved significantly from my initial vision. I had a few key requirements: plenty of natural light and a great view, along with full-size or near-full-size amenities like a shower, fridge with an ice maker,





ample kitchen storage, a large closet, and a sizable washer/dryer combo. The Panoramic Windows on a Perch and Nest model caught my eye, and I knew I needed something similar, but larger, including one in the kitchen. I found almost full-size appliances at AJ Madison, a store in NYC that specializes in space-saving appliances for apartments. They were perfect for my needs.

Initially, I planned to finish the interior work myself, hiring Perch and Nest only for the framing. However, as my work hours increased, I realized I wouldn't have the time to complete the project within the year I had planned. By then, I had settled on the location and had begun landscaping the area. My excitement got the best of me, so we agreed that Perch and Nest would finish the job.

I'm thrilled with the design of the house and have continued to make it my ideal space. Over the past few years, I've taken on various homesteading projects that require more storage than my large closet can handle, despite regular decluttering. As a result, I added a shed. In the future, I plan to build a second structure attached via the sliding door to serve as a larger gym, greenhouse, and hobby storage, which will allow me to reclaim my living room.

Overall, I'm extremely happy with my decision. At some

point, this house will become my vacation home, and I plan to build a park model-sized house for retirement.

”

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CUSTOM BUILDERS MOVABLE ROOTS

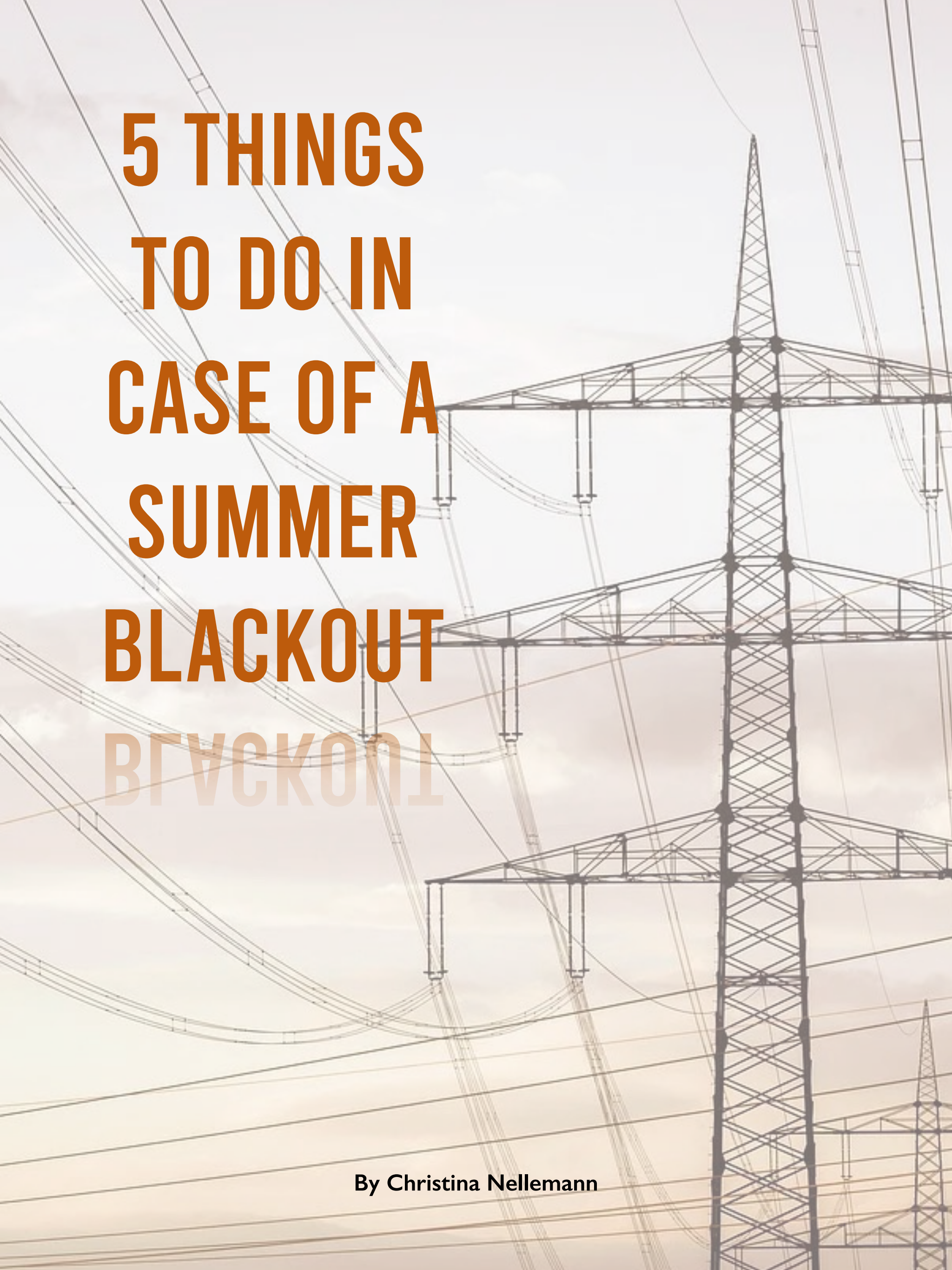
PRICE DROP ALERT

We are trying to make room for our upcoming custom builds to finish out 2024 and into 2025. We're offering an incredible deal on our existing inventory of the 20' Jojo Bean and the 24' Jojo Bean.

- 20' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$69,999
- 24' Jojo Bean: Now Only \$79,999

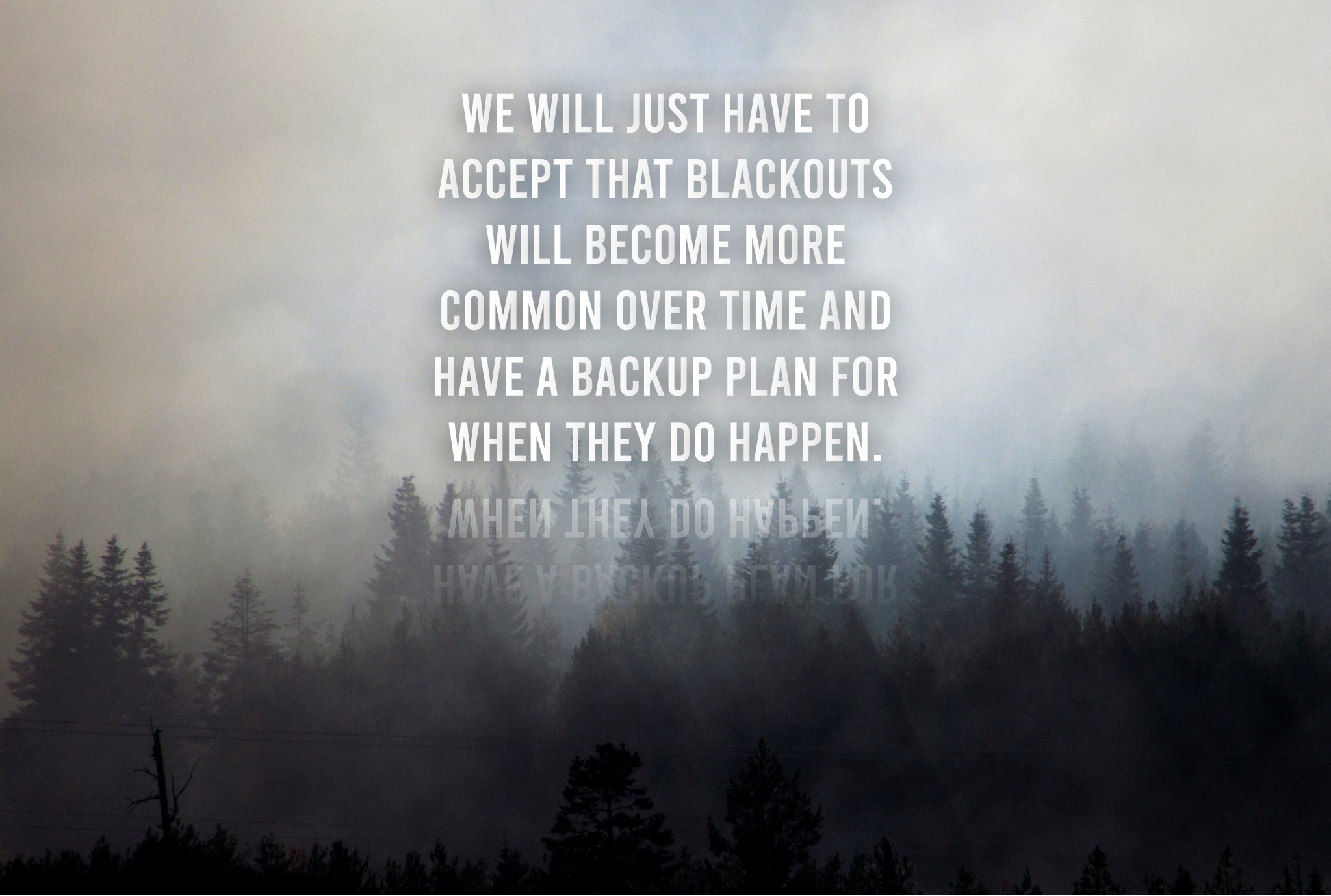
Both models are ready to ship immediately!





5 THINGS TO DO IN CASE OF A SUMMER BLACKOUT

By Christina Nellemann



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This summer's heat waves and wildfires have been bringing on a lot more than sweaty, smoky days. They have also been causing a few blackouts.

High heat is taxing on the electric grid and with the danger of wildfires, some utility companies are shutting off power to select areas. These are called rolling blackouts and have [become more common](#) over the last decade.

This means that any home or building tied to the electric grid will lose power for up to several hours per day. This is a minor annoyance for some but can be dangerous for those who rely on electricity for lifesaving appliances such as hemodialysis or CPAP machines.

We will just have to accept that blackouts will become more common over time and have a backup plan for when they do happen.

People who live in tiny houses or off-grid homes might be a little more prepared for power outages or rolling blackouts than the average homeowner. Many tiny homes are independent of the power grid and run off their own battery bank and solar system. However, some tiny homes might be plugged into the grid most of the time.

Whether or not you live in a tiny home, here are five things you can do to prepare for a summer blackout.



1. HAVE MULTIPLE BACKUP POWER SOURCES

After going through multiple blackouts this last month, my husband and I decided to invest in a whole-house power station. We chose the EcoFlow DELTA Pro portable station with 400 watts of solar.

While this power station is not going to run all appliances, AC, and the refrigerator indefinitely, it will keep some important items going for several hours or even several days. For example, the DELTA can run a 120-watt refrigerator for about 24 hours. It can run a smaller dorm fridge for several days. The DELTA can even run a TV and wifi system for over a month.

If a [backup system](#) like the EcoFlow is over your budget, there are smaller power stations that can run a small fan, charge up your phones, and run a few lights. If you are only interested in keeping your smaller devices charged up, then take a look at [these portable solar chargers](#).

For years we have had a gas generator that we have used for a few winter blackout backup situations. We have decided to sell it. It's loud, needs regular maintenance and oil, has a starter battery that needs to be trickle-charged in the winter, and requires us to store fuel for it.

A solar backup system is much more efficient, cleaner, more quiet, and lighter.



2. STORE FOOD AND WATER

This is a given for any emergency scenario. No matter what the weather, having food and water stored will give you peace of mind. During a summer blackout, it might be even more important.

When the power is down, you will not be able to run your water pump. So drinking, dishes, washing, and cooking will be relegated to whatever water you have stored.

We always have at least 8-10 gallons of water stored in a closet and regularly use them up and switch them out with new bottles.

Food preps should also be on the simple side. Store food that is easy to cook and clean up after. Bagged beans and rice, boxed couscous, canned fish and meat, and canned vegetables are good choices. In addition, don't forget snack foods or sweets.



3. HAVE ALTERNATE WAYS OF COOKING

If you cook with electricity, your primary source of fuel will be gone. You can still cook with natural gas, but your igniter will not work. [Other appliances such as gas ovens](#) and water heaters will also not work without power.

The good news is that during a summer blackout, the humble propane grill comes in

real handy. During our blackouts we have been using our grill for everything from grilled steak and chicken to corn on the cob and sautéed vegetables.

If you don't have the space or money for an outdoor grill, a camping stove or backpacking stove can cook food or heat up water for a few bagged backpacking meals.



4. KEEP YOUR COOL WITH A BUCKET

The worst part of a summer blackout has got to be the heat and humidity. When the power goes out, so does the air conditioning.

Air conditioning has become so important to our lives. The most [populated and fastest-growing cities in the U.S. would not even exist without it](#). Places like Phoenix, Miami, Dallas, and Houston would not be what they are today without AC.

If you do have a backup battery source such as the EcoFlow, they are capable of running fans and maybe a small swamp cooler for a few hours or a few days. In case of a power outage, section off a part of your house as

the “cool zone” and run the fan or cooler only in this area.

After going to Burning Man for many years, one of the smartest gadgets I saw out there was the DIY AC unit for tents. This simple unit uses a 5-gallon Home Depot bucket, a personal fan, and some chunks of ice. It’s small enough to fit into a tiny house.

Another design uses evaporative cooling, but that works best in dryer climates. If you have a more humid climate, the ice bucket design works better. The fan can be 110-volt or 12-volt and runs off of a backup battery.



5. KEEP “ANALOG” ENTERTAINMENT ON HAND

A power outage can sometimes be a blessing. Without AC units, TVs, computers, and other devices running it's a lot more quiet. What better time than to catch up with a good book?

During our blackouts this summer, I took some time away from YouTube to catch up on a paperback book. My husband and I also learned and played some new board games.

We also chatted (in person!) with our neighbors. Conversations revolved around how nice it was to not have power for a little while and what alternatives we were using.



The modern utility grid is an amazing first-world luxury. We tend to take it for granted until it goes down.

I saw firsthand the people in my neighborhood who reacted with frustration and anger at not having power for just a few hours. What would happen if it went down for a few weeks or a few months?

Preparing ahead of time and finding alternatives to being on the grid is a real test of creativity and perseverance. Tiny house owners have a leg up in this department already.



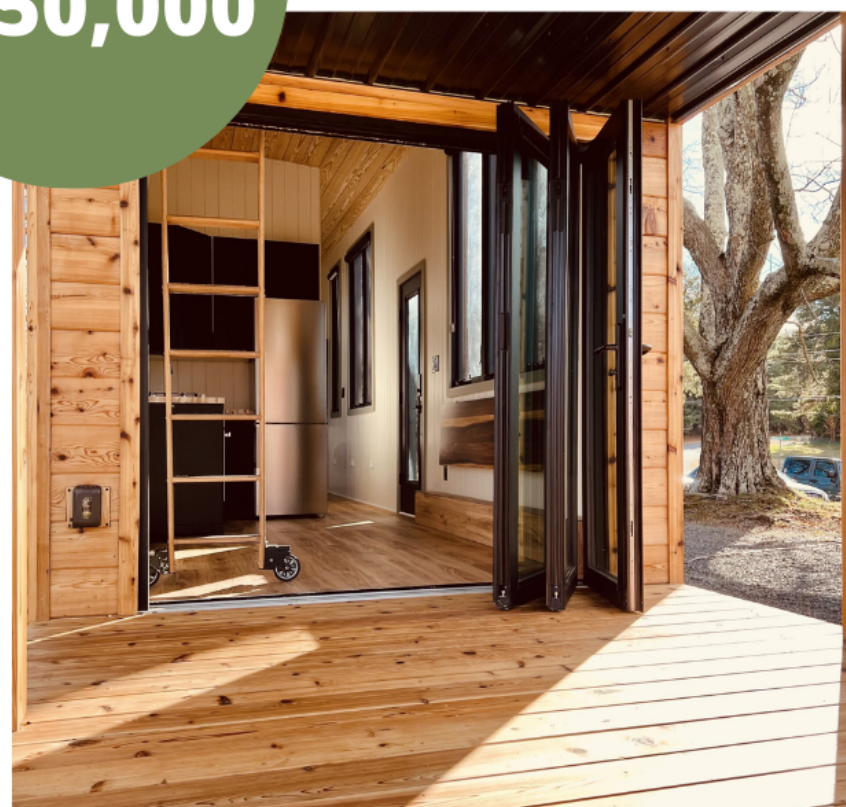
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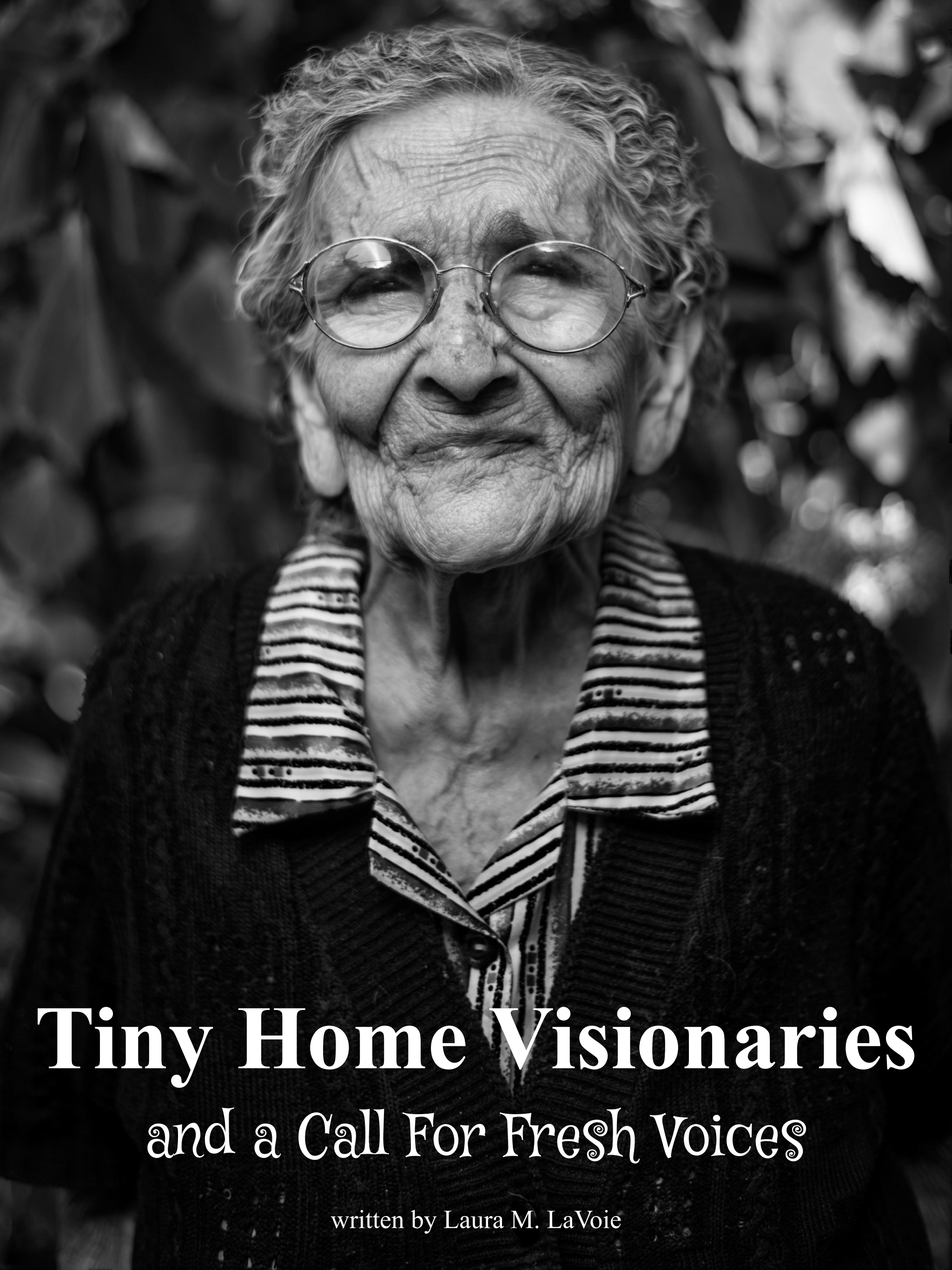
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Tiny Home Visionaries

and a Call For Fresh Voices

written by Laura M. LaVoie

Sometimes, I feel like the little old lady in a crocheted shawl sitting in a rocking chair asking the children to gather ‘round for a story. In truth, I am still a few months shy of 50. I rock rainbow hair and have a few tattoos, so even when I am “elderly,” I can’t imagine I’ll be radiating grandma vibes like the character from the Tweety Bird cartoons. But here I am.

After a conversation recently, I began to feel my age. When Matt and I started our tiny house journey, we were in our early 30s. I was 32 when we bought our land and began planning what we would build ourselves. We learned about tiny homes in 2008 and broke ground in the summer of 2009 for a project that would take us three years to complete. By the time we were done, I was 37. Still shy of 40, I felt invincible. **I rocked my 30s, finally feeling like I had gained some insight into life by then.**

We made many connections within the tiny house community when we were building. We attended conferences and festivals. We met people when they drove through our town with their own tiny houses in tow. We made friends with folks from all around the country. Sometimes, they stayed with us in our small city house when they rolled through Asheville, even if we’d never met them in person. It felt like a renaissance and a community.

It made me wonder where the new tiny home voices are today. I completely acknowledge that it may be that I’m just out of the loop. It’s been so long since I have been a part of the tiny house circuit. Many people I know today are those we met in those years, still spreading the word about tiny homes. *Some, like us, have left tiny living behind (though not a tiny mindset, but that’s what I have always talked about in my journey).*



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Who should I know in the tiny home community now?

Here is a short list of folks I admire and respect still living the tiny life.

Tiny House Expedition



I met Christian and Alexis after we finished our tiny home and bought our city house. **They were traveling in their tiny house all around the country.** They swung through Asheville a couple of times, and we saw them at a few events and festivals in other places. They are just seriously good people. They've bought an A-Frame cabin and are still creating content centered around simpler and smaller living.

Ms. Bohemian Soul



I cannot say enough good things about Jewel, the person behind **Ms. Bohemian Soul**. She

built one of the most incredible luxury tiny homes I have ever seen. Because of it, she's been featured in magazines and television programs. She regularly attends festivals to speak about tiny homes and is a voice for social justice through housing opportunities.

Tiny House Giant Journey



Jenna's been through many changes since I met her while she traveled with her tiny home and filmed me in mine. She's married with two children and living her best life in the Pacific Northwest. She turned her original traveling tiny home into a rental opportunity, along with a vardo and a camper. And she still **makes incredible videos of other tiny house voices.**

Kristie Wolfe



I am so glad tiny houses connected me to

many individuals worldwide. [When I met Kristie](#), she built her tiny home in Idaho and traveled the country with [The Big Idaho Potato](#). On a trip when she was coming through our town with the Potato, she told us she planned to make it into a house when it was decommissioned. Imagine my surprise when I saw an AirBnB commercial featuring Kristie's [potato retreat](#). She also built a treehouse with just her mom in Hawaii and has become a short-term rental entrepreneur.

Zack Giffin



I admit I watch a lot of reality TV. My favorite genre is reality competition, but I'll also watch plenty of home makeovers. When Tiny House Nation began, the entire tiny house community was excited to see what kind of excitement it could bring to the movement. You might think that reality TV is mostly staged and scripted, and often it is, but occasionally you get a real gem. And that gem is Zack Giffin. [He's the real deal](#), not just an actor looking to increase his fame through carpentry. He's the director of a non-profit called [Operation Tiny Home](#) and the [VP of the Tiny House Industry Association](#). He's been a consistent and regular voice in the continuing tiny house movement.

Who else should I know? Who are the new tiny house voices coming to the scene?

MiniMotives



If you want authentic tiny home living, look no further than Macy and her family at [MiniMotives](#). I met Macy when she was single and building her tiny home. Now, she and her partner have two growing and entrepreneurial kids living in the tiny house on acreage in Idaho. Whenever someone suggests that no one can live in a tiny house long term or raise a family in one, I point them to Macy. Maybe she's the exception, but it's okay to be exceptional.

Who else should I know? Who are the new tiny house voices coming to the scene? If you or anyone you know is exploring or experiencing tiny home living, send them here to share their story with Tiny House Magazine.



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