

Home" that just opened. Dineyard combines today's cutting edge technology with a few Johnson-ite flourishes.

Many of the 5,900-square-foot home's technologies are practical, such as a virtual bulletin board for the kids' schedules and a 50-watt outdoor monitor that gives barbecue instructions.

Others are more futuristic: the push of a button changes the outside appearance of the home and a virtual mirror projects accessories, hairstyles and clothes from your closet onto your reflection.

ANTIQUE DETECTIVE

READER QUESTIONS

Antique Detective Anne Gilbert answers questions about your treasures.

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IN THE GARDEN



CAREFUL PLANNING CAN SAVE CASH

Rather than planting your garden all at once, you can save some cash by planning in phases. It may take several seasons before you get the look you like, but that kind of planning saves your pocketbook and helps you make for more considered purchases.

—STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS



TABLECLOTH

Venture to the hobby store for a piece of patriotic fabric, Patrey says. You don't even have to finish the edges, she says. But you could tie the corner ends for a little flare, Patrey points out.

CANDLES

Patrey placed a paper lantern in the center of the table that would be perfect for hiding a citronella candle. Red-star votives are in step with the festive feeling of the table and are also good for Christmas, Memorial Day or Valentine's Day.

place for good finds, especially if you're planning a more upscale celebration. Once you return with your decorations, Patrey recommends doing a dry-run to make sure you have all your supplies and that the table comes out the way you had planned.



party favors in them, Omico says.



... BUT FORGET FIREWORKS FOR YOUR PRIVATE PARTY

Fireworks are illegal for private citizens to use, possess or sell in Massachusetts. That includes sparklers, party poppers, snappers, firecrackers, spinners and cherry bombs, according to the state's Web site, www.mass.gov.

But there are always the professionals. Turn to Thursday's GetOut section for a roundup of events, as well as an interview with the Pops' conductor Keith Lockhart.

■ **INSIDE:** Help your pets cope with fireworks displays

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IN THE SHOPS by VALERIA A. RUSSO For The Patriot Ledger



▲ **TAKE A STAND:** Does the typical widescreen TV stand clash with your decor? Then perhaps this painted distressed-wood cabinet with stained mahogany top, two glass cabinets and three open shelves is just what you've been looking for. The cabinet, which measures 71 inches by 20 inches by 20 inches, is available in three colors: butter, black and dark wood stain. It sells for \$679 at P.O. Home Restorations and Originals, 11A Commerce Road, Rockland, 781-871-1225.

► **GOOD TIME:** This 70's-functonal metal tempo-style floor clock would make a beautiful addition to any large garden. Made by the Howard Miller Clock Company of Zealand, N.J., the two-faced clock features an eggal iron finish and quiet battery-operated movement. It sells for \$699 at the Carriage House Salon & Spa, 102 West Center St., West Bridgewater, 508-680-2379.



► **BUG BUSTER:** Keep mosquitoes at bay the natural way with Soyzeed Pickett Insect Spray made by Sherry and Rich Kelly, owners of The Soy of Life Company in Plymouth. The spray contains catnip oil, which researchers have found to be 10 times more effective at repelling mosquitoes than DEET, the chemical used in most commercial bug repellents. Soyzeed Pickett also contains aloe vera, witch hazel, soy oil, chamomile and other botanicals, which soothe existing bites and help prevent infection. A 4-ounce bottle sells for \$18 through the company's Web site, www.the soyoflife.com, at Lucy's, 170 Water St., Village Landing, Plymouth, and Whole Foods Market at the Derby Street Shoppes, 94 Derby St., Hingham.



Come across any products in local shops that we should know about? Contact Valerie A. Russo by e-mail, varusso@patriotledger.net. Please put "In The Shops" in the subject line or write "In The Shops" in Home Living. The Patriot Ledger, 400 Crown Colony Drive, Quincy, MA 02269.