

# NOVEMBER

## NEWSLETTER



## HOLIDAY HOME checklist

Before the open houses, holiday parties and Thanksgiving gatherings are in full swing, it's a good idea to spend a day or two early this month ensuring your house is ready for the festivities! Tackling these chores now will help eliminate some of the last-minute stress of entertaining and allow you to truly enjoy the season.

- 1. Guest Room Makeover.** It's amazing how quickly closets fill and drawers clutter from season to season. Make room for holiday guests by clearing away excess, emptying drawers and freshening your spare room. Fun magazines or interesting books make nice bedside table accents, and fresh flowers are always a welcoming touch. New towels and washcloths are a nice addition to a guest bath, and consider stocking up on extra toiletries such as shampoo, razors and toothbrushes in case someone forgets theirs!
- 2. Clean Sweep.** Call your local chimney sweep for a thorough inspection of your chimney long before chestnuts start roasting on an open fire! When it comes to fire prevention, safety first!
- 3. Clear the Air.** Replace the filters on your forced-air heating system. Doing so cuts down on allergens and extends the life of your system. While you're at it, check the filters and duct work on your dryer. Most owner's manuals say to detach the hose that leads to the wall by unfastening the clamp. A vent cleaning brush makes quick work of clearing the lint and making your home safer!
- 4. Freezer Fallout.** Holidays often make for full freezers. Now is a great time to thoroughly clean out your freezer. Remember when repacking for holiday meals to always leave 1½ inches at the top for air circulation!
- 5. Gutter De-clutter.** It's a thankless job, but an important one. Take the time to clear debris, check for clogs and thoroughly clean out your gutters and drain spouts. Make repairs where necessary. A little maintenance now may save you from a wintry mess—and certainly from frozen fingers!



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## SETTING THE TABLE



Whether you plan to set a traditional table this holiday or are ready to mix it up a bit, add personality and spice to your holiday with simple, decorative touches.

- Use mini pumpkins or gourds as placeholders. Simply write each guest's name with a Sharpie!
- Fill a deep glass bowl with pomegranates, clove-studded oranges and lemons for a beautiful, fragrant centerpiece.
- String autumn-colored glass beads on simple wire, and secure the ends to make festive napkin holders. Kids love to help!
- Float candles and cranberries in dishes of water for an elegant effect. It makes a rich and colorful combination.
- Add flair to your table with flea market finds. Mix and match dinner plates, bread plates and bowls in various hues to create a bountiful bouquet of color.



## THANKS & GIVING

During this incredibly busy time of year, it's easy to get caught up in the quick pace and hustle of holiday preparedness. Take the time to remember all that you are thankful for by celebrating old family traditions, forging new ones and giving back to those around you. Here are some ideas to get you started:

**1. Send thank you cards.** It's a terrific time to thank those who mean so much to you. Give your friends, family and mentors a true gift this season with a special handwritten note in their mailbox.

**2. Remember those who are less fortunate.** What a great time to teach children about the gift of charity and volunteerism. Touching lives and giving back is the heart of this season. Support your local food bank, volunteer at a local shelter, adopt a family for your holiday meal or deliver baked goods to a nursing home or neighbor.

**3. Make thankful notes.** Present a basket of small cards before Thanksgiving dinner. Invite friends and family to jot down why they are thankful for each guest. Just before or after the big meal, give each guest their cards. Those memories will remain long after you've finished the pumpkin pie!

**4. Make a memory book.** A Thanksgiving scrapbook is a great way to look back and relive the memories. Include handwritten notes from guests, pictures of your table and festivities, recipe cards, pressed leaves, wine bottle labels and other reminders of the special moments.



**Whatever tradition feels right for your family, may your holiday be bountiful and your blessings be many.**

## Sizzling Stuffed Mushrooms

*The perfect appetizer for holiday meals, office parties and neighborhood gatherings*

- ½ pound bacon, chopped
- 1 small sweet onion, chopped
- 1 8 oz. package soft cream cheese
- 4 oz. shredded mozzarella
- 4 oz. fresh shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1½ cups Italian breadcrumbs
- 1 lb. medium-large, white button mushrooms



Cap and clean mushrooms. Set caps aside in a shallow baking dish. Clean and chop the stems. Brown bacon in skillet until crispy; drain well on paper towels. Clean excess bacon grease from pan, add chopped onion and stems, and sauté until onions are translucent. Turn heat off, and allow pan to cool for 3 to 5 minutes. Add bacon and remaining ingredients to warm pan, and stir until well blended. Stuff each cap with mixture from pan. Pour ¼ cup of water in the bottom of the baking dish, and bake mushrooms at 350 degrees for 10-15 minutes, or until brown and bubbly!

# Real Estate tips

brought to you by Harvey & Nancy Paepke, TEAM

## **Savvy Selling in a Shifting Market**

Although the market has shifted, buyers are still out there! Here are some tips to set yourself apart from the competition and help you sell your home in these changing times:

- Set your price competitively, and be flexible.
- Consider incentives. Make provisions or offer allowances for outdated appliances and/or carpet. Doing so sets the stage for buyers to see the potential for making the home theirs.



- Eliminate pet odors and pet hair wherever possible.
- Create a neutral landscape. De-clutter your home, and pack away much of the collectables. Present clean walls or, if you are repainting, choose neutral tones.
- Open blinds and curtains to add light and make your home more pleasant and inviting.
- Provide a professional home inspection.
- Stay in touch with your real estate professional so you know what to expect from today's market. Patience is a virtue!

These are just a few general strategies for selling your home in a changing market. For a complete understanding of current market trends, average time on market and comparable home prices, call us. We're happy to help!

## **CALL TODAY FOR A FREE:**

- Comparative Home Analysis
- Merchandising Review
- List of Properties
- Mortgage Options Analysis
- For Sale By Owner Kit
- LISTING GUARANTEE

## **TAKE FIVE! Handy Household Tips**

### **Quick Fall Tips to Save Stress and Energy!**

1. **Pipe Up.** Be sure to close outside spigots, detach sprinklers and hoses, and check for leaks before winter's first freeze.
2. **Window Watch.** Check the caulk around your windowsills. It should be spongy to the touch. If hardened, remove with caulk remover and apply new caulk.
3. **Carbon Monoxide Monitor.** Winter months and closed-up homes can conceal hidden dangers. Check your carbon monoxide detector once a week. If you don't have one, consider the investment. The cost is nominal, but the protection is priceless.
4. **Light Bright.** Before holiday guests arrive, run your glass light globes through the dishwasher for a fast, simple sparkle!
5. **Fireplace Odor Eater.** To eliminate soot odor, place a large dish of baking soda in your fireplace overnight.





Southeast Realty

"Let this TEAM get you MOVING today!!

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## A SEASON OF THANKS

When we sit across from family and friends this holiday season we will, like many of you, count our blessings. Among them, we will give thanks for the opportunity to do what we do. As REALTORS®, we have made lifelong friends, guided clients through financial decisions, found families homes of their dreams and, mostly, relished the chance to truly help people.

Every year we discover new faces, new families, new blessings and new beginnings in this industry. For that, we are overwhelmingly thankful. It is people like you who make this journey such an incredible gift.

We wish you all the best this Thanksgiving. We wish for you incredible memories, laugh-out-loud time with loved ones, and feasts to feed your body, mind and spirit.

Be well, our friends. And have a Happy Thanksgiving!



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