

TEAM TIRY TIDBITS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The year 2020 has been quite a year! I don't think most of us will have a problem remembering what we did, or didn't do this year...

It has brought about challenges for many of us in ways we wouldn't have expected. Many of us have found some new perspective on life that we all maybe took for granted such as how much we enjoy seeing family, social get togethers, Church and yes... even going to work!

Real Estate has been one of the areas that has faired very well, some sectors much better than others such as New Construction and building in general. The housing shortage has continued, and even got a bit worse, with less people selling for various reasons. Along with more buyers at home, they have been looking at their 4 walls at home and thinking "we need to change a few things" or "we need a larger/smaller home". The construction, building and remodeling industry has been insane to say the least.

Loan interest rates have been unbelievably low.. It's almost hard to believe we can see rates this low! It's helped with housing affordability so people are refinancing their homes which allows them to lower payments and are often choosing to build or buy as other options. If you are not moving and haven't refinanced.... it's well worth resetting your mortgage rates to these historic lows.

The current outlook remains strong for housing going into 2021. The housing shortage and current demand for homes is as strong as it has ever been so we will hope for a great 2021. Let's hope it's one we can see our friends and family a lot more also!

Wishing you and your families a wonderful New Year to come!

Take care, Aaron & Cheree



safe & warm

As winter is fast approaching, we have provided homeowners with the following tips to ensure their homes are well prepared & more energy efficient throughout the coming months.

Inspect around windows & doors for cracks and seal any openings with caulk or weather stripping to prevent air and water from getting into your home.

Have a professional evaluate the amount of insulation in your home to ensure it is properly insulated & will keep your energy costs down.

Replace batteries in smoke alarms & carbon monoxide detectors to keep them working properly.

Visibly check the fireplace opening for loose or missing bricks and have screens in place to protect against any embers that may escape.

Look for raised, loose or missing roof shingles and replace them, if needed, to prevent water from getting in and creating leaks.

Remove hoses from outside spigots and store them during the winter months.

Clean debris from gutters to prevent water from collecting and freezing.

Make sure all downspouts are pointed away from the foundation.

Have the HVAC units inspected and change furnace filters monthly for cleaner indoor air and maximum energy efficiency.

Program thermostats to lower temperatures while at work or sleeping.

These simple steps can help homeowners maintain the overall health and safety of their home during the winter season.

WHILE YOU'RE AWAY...

The holidays are an exciting time, especially if you plan on traveling. Whether you're visiting family or going somewhere warm for the winter, it's important to take security precautions when leaving your home unattended. The following are steps you can take to deter potential burglars from making your home a target this season:

Consider an upgrade. Locking your doors and windows is a good start, but if you don't yet have a home security system, consider getting one. There are a variety of smart options out there now, from comprehensive systems to individual features, such as the Ring Video Doorbell, which detects motion and provides a view of your front door on your smartphone.

Put lights on a timer. A house that is constantly dark is a good sign to burglars that no one is home. Set indoor and patio lights on automatic timers. There are tim-

ers and smart light bulbs you can control via your smartphone, like the Philips Hue.

Combat the elements. If you live in an area where it snows during the winter months, hire someone to shovel and clear the sidewalks while you're gone. This will keep snow from piling up if any falls while you're away, which can fool potential thieves and make shoveling a less daunting task when you return.

Hold your mail. Another obvious sign that no one is home is when newspapers, packages and other mail pile up in your

mailbox or at the front door. Put a hold on your mail or ask a neighbor to pick it up and keep it until you return from vacation. If you expect large packages to be delivered while you're gone, consider having them sent to the store or an Amazon Locker.

Put social media on pause. You may want to post about your vacation plans or photos on social media, but wait until you're back home. Letting everyone know before or during your travels is also letting them know that your house is empty.





new year SAME HOME

Make a resolution to declutter & reorganize these 5 rooms

Now that the new year is here, it's time to get organized. After the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, it is easy for things to be shuffled around or misplaced. Here are the five rooms or areas in your home that deserve immediate reorganization and attention:

1. THE KITCHEN. Typically the gathering place for holiday functions, it's possible that many of your beloved plates, Tupperware and even coffee mugs were moved around by visiting friends and family members. To free up cupboard space, try hanging your pots and pans or decluttering with drawer organizers.

2. THE BATHROOM. The most used room in the house, you're probably not looking forward to getting this space in order. But beyond a wave of the toilet wand, under-the-sink storage and behind-the-door hooks create more space and make getting ready in the morning a breeze!

3. THE CLOSET. Your wardrobe could potentially be a mix of summer, fall and winter attire. Getting some under-the-bed storage will finally force you to put away the shorts and tank tops, and see-through shoe boxes will keep your favorite pairs crisp and clean.

4. THE LAUNDRY ROOM. Overhead or hideaway storage options will work best for this room, creating more space for loads of dirty (or clean) laundry. Try a drying rack that you can hang from the ceiling, or a storage tower on wheels for all of your detergents and fabric softeners.

5. THE HOME OFFICE. Finally, if you've worked from home during the holiday season, chances are your office may be in disarray. Drawer organizers or a brand new bookshelf can help you keep all your important mail, documents and books in their place.



It may be the winter, but you can still go green! Check out these five easy ways to make your home more eco-friendly and lower your energy bills.

Keep a sweater on hand. While you may prefer to stay cozied up by the fireside all winter long, your pockets will thank you if you just grab your favorite sweater or sweat shirt to keep warm. When at home, set your thermostat between 62 and 65 degrees, or add a space heater to rooms to keep them warm while you're in them.

Turn off the lights. Holiday light decorations can be fun and exciting, but they can also send your electric bill through the roof. Be sure to cut off all lights inside and outside of the house when they're not in use.

Check (and change) filters. Dust and debris tend to build up in air filters and may cause your heating and cooling systems to work over time. Before it gets too chilly, switch out any old filters to make sure air flows properly throughout your home.

Insulate the attic. Draftiness can come from poorly insulated windows, but it can also be the result of other sources of cold air that increase heating and cooling costs. Taking a step to properly insulate your attic can save you hundreds of dollars.

Keep your vents open. It's often said that closing your vents will save you money, but over time it can lead to your HVAC system leaking and potentially malfunctioning.

