



It's a perfect time to kick back, reflect on the year past and enjoy your family and friends. Naturally, everyone will want to really enjoy this precious time. It's the holiday season! So, focus on those little traditions that evoke positive memories for the holidays: songs, events, rituals, and more, or consider creating new ones.

Have a happy, joyous, holiday season!

If you have any family or friends at your gatherings looking to buy or sell a home, please give them my name.

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Seasonal Scoop

Holiday Fire Safety Hints

The holidays are filled with parties, decorations, candles and greenery. During this festive time, pay close attention to fire safety. Take these steps to protect your family:

- Establish a fire emergency plan, so family members know what to do.
- Never leave candles burning—unattended—in any room in the house.
- Do not put candles in greenery arrangements or on the tree; they can easily catch fire.
- Arrange candles in areas away from traffic flow or where they might be tipped over.
- Do not burn wrapping paper or evergreens in the fireplace. They can ignite rapidly and burn furiously.
- Inspect the fire in the fireplace to make sure it's completely out—before you go to bed.
- Test holiday lights and wiring. If cords are frayed, discard. Plug in strings to see if they are all working. Replace lights that are not. Don't overload sockets or extension cords.
- Never leave food cooking or baking in the kitchen without checking or watching it.

Your Home Talkin'... Tips

Getting the house ready to sell (Series 5 of 5)

Fixing up the house exterior 2 of 2

The front door should be especially sharp, since it is the entry way into the house. Polish the door fixture so it gleams. If the door needs refinishing or repainting, get that done.

Any personalized plaques should be removed – mailbox too. Get a new plush doormat, too. Make sure the lock works easily and the key fits properly. Trouble working the lock when homebuyers come to visit sends a negative first impression to prospective homebuyers.

The back yard should be tidy. If you have a pool or spa, keep it freshly maintained and constantly cleaned. For those that have dogs, be sure to constantly keep the area clear of "debris." Any child-related items should also be removed.

Warranty Wisdom

Instead of compiling a list of service people in every specialty from plumbing to electrical to heating and AC work, buy a **2-10 HBW ResaleSM** home service agreement and you only have to make one phone call, describe the warranty problem, and the appropriate service person will be dispatched.

This Fall/Winter add a little warmth to your home while creating the perfect scent for your home. By choosing the appropriate firewood, you can create a cozy fragrant atmosphere.

Apple: sweetens the smell and it produces colorful flames.

Cherry: not as sweet as apple wood, cherry wood still adds a little sugar in the mix.

Black Birch: just enough spice with its cinnamon scent.

Chocolate, Chocolate Chip Cookies (48 servings)

Ingredients

- 1 Cup butter, softened
- 1 ½ Cups white sugar
- 2 Eggs
- 2 Teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 Cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 Cup cocoa powder
- ¾ Teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ Teaspoon salt
- 2 Cups semisweet chocolate chips
- ½ Cup chopped walnuts (optional)



Preheat oven to 350° F. In large bowl, beat butter, sugar, eggs, and vanilla until light and fluffy. Combine the flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt; stir in the butter mixture until well blended. Mix in the chocolate chips & walnuts. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls onto un-greased cookie sheets. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, or just until set. Cool slightly on the cookie sheets before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.

Quote of the Month

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.

Aesop

If your house is already listed with a Realtor[®] please disregard this offer.