

# your home

*Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers*



## EARLY BIRDS

Demand has pushed the spring selling season earlier, as buyers hope to beat the competition and secure a house early on. According to Realtor.com, the median age of property listings over the winter was four days fewer than last year. Despite the typical seasonal slowdown, inventory is picking up speed for this time of year.

Median list price typically reaches its lowest point mid-winter as well, but it remained level at \$250,000, indicating that buyers are remaining persistent.

Buyers may also be reacting to mortgage rates, which rapidly climbed higher following the election, pushing buyers to secure a loan as soon as possible.

This is also a sign of continuing low inventory, which is creating higher home prices and shorter turnarounds for sales. All signs point to this season shaping up to be a seller's market.



↘ For many Americans, spring equals allergies. Itchy and watery eyes, runny nose, congestion—it's enough to make you want to skip the season altogether. But with these five steps from DIY Network, you can help reduce allergens in your home and find a brief respite.

**1** Remove clutter: Less stuff means fewer places for allergens to linger.

**2** Clean the air: A well-ventilated house is your first line of defense. Use HEPA filters in your air conditioning system, maintain the humidity at about 50 percent and keep your windows closed when pollen counts are

highest in the early morning and between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

**3** Clean the bathroom: Mold tends to gather there.

**4** Reduce dust-generators: Fabrics and carpeting create dust by breaking down fibers. Swap carpets out for washable throw rugs.

**5** Make smart landscaping decisions: Avoid planting trees such as maple, birch and ash, which have allergenic particles that can trigger discomfort.



# SPRING things



Spring is a great time to do a quick tune up of your home. Before things get busy for the summer, take a moment to make sure your home is humming along. Here's a quick checklist of fixes to make now to save you time and



## Interior

- ➔ Check seals around windows, doors and bathtubs
- ➔ Drain your water heater
- ➔ Check and fix leaky faucets
- ➔ Replace your HVAC filters
- ➔ Clean out your dryer vent
- ➔ Replace batteries in smoke detectors
- ➔ Make sure you have a working fire extinguisher
- ➔ Check basement walls for moisture or mold
- ➔ Vacuum refrigerator condenser coils



## Exterior

- ➔ Inspect the roof
- ➔ Clean the gutters
- ➔ Wash window exteriors and check screens for repairs
- ➔ Check driveway and walks for repairs
- ➔ Inspect deck and patio for warped, molded or splintered boards
- ➔ Trim bushes and trees, or any vegetation near an air conditioning unit in particular
- ➔ Remove leaves and other debris from lawn

## StevenFinlay.com

Whether you're a first time buyer, first time seller or real estate veteran; buying a primary residence, investing or selling, from the time you identify your Real Estate Goals all the way through closing, you will make several important decisions. As your Realtor I will provide you with the information necessary for you to make sound decisions on the way to achieving your Real Estate Goals



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**ShoreWEST**  
REALTORS®

Steven Finlay, Broker Associate, ABR, CRS, GRI, e-PRO  
920 471-6040 Cell  
888 427-1359 Fax  
MailTo:[RealEstate@StevenFinlay.com](mailto:RealEstate@StevenFinlay.com)  
<http://StevenFinlay.com>  
839 Lombardi Ave  
Green Bay, WI 54304



**Do you know someone who is thinking about buying, selling and / or investing in real estate?  
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