

From your local  
**REAL ESTATE  
EXPERT**

**POWER**  **AGENT**<sup>®</sup>

*May* 



**MAY IS NATIONAL HOME IMPROVEMENT MONTH!**

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## Spring Home Maintenance Tips

Spring has arrived! Many of us have been trapped inside to avoid the cold but now's the time to get outdoors! It's also time for some home improvement that will help you avoid big repair bills in the future.

- ✓ Inspect your roof.
- ✓ Clean your gutters.
- ✓ Clean or replace your HVAC filters.
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- ✓ Inspect your roof.
- ✓ Clean your gutters.
- ✓ Clean or replace your HVAC filters.
- ✓ Clean your dryer vent.
- ✓ Check the washing machine fill hose.
- ✓ Clean and repair your screens.
- ✓ Clean decks, driveways, fences and other outside surfaces.
- ✓ Fix cracks in your walks, driveway and the outside of your home.
- ✓ Repair any cracked or peeling paint.
- ✓ Vacuum your refrigerator coils.
- ✓ Replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- ✓ Prepare your lawn mower for summer.
- ✓ Check seals around windows and doors.
- ✓ Clear vegetation around your AC compressor.
- ✓ Drain your water heater.



# DATES TO REMEMBER

Cinco De Mayo - May 5th

Mother's Day - Second Sunday in May

Hug Your Cat Day - May 15th

Neighbor Day - May 26

Memorial Day - Last Monday in May

## Strawberry SHORTCAKE



- 1 1/2 lbs strawberries, stemmed and quartered
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream
- 1 1/2 cups heavy cream, chilled
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated lemon zest

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Mix strawberries with 3 table-  
spoons sugar and refrigerate while juices develop, at least 30 minutes.
- Sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, remaining 2 table-  
spoons sugar, and salt in a medium bowl. Add heavy cream and mix  
until just combined. Place mixture in an ungreased 8-inch square pan  
and bake until golden, 18 to 20 minutes.
- Place a metal bowl and beaters in the freezer during shortcake  
cooking time.
- Remove shortcake from pan and place on a rack to cool slightly. Cut  
into 6 pieces and split each piece in half horizontally.
- Mix all whipped cream ingredients in the metal bowl with metal  
beaters about 1 1/2 to 2 minutes.
- Spoon some of the strawberries with their juice onto each shortcake  
bottom. Top with a generous dollop of whipped cream and then the  
shortcake top. Spoon more strawberries over the top and serve.



## TOP IMPROVEMENT TRENDS

**Accessibility Improvements.** Currently, one in three Americans is over the age of 50, and by 2030, one in five will be 65 or older. Accessibility accommodations like wider doorways, first-floor bedrooms, accessible showers and toilets, and ramps and railings will be a major driver in remodeling.

**Unusual Materials.** Homeowners may be feeling a more natural look, and at least one industrial material is making a huge comeback: concrete. And it's not just counters and sinks that will be getting an overhaul. Concrete is so popular right now that experts say they're seeing it used for wallcoverings and furniture, like molded desks and coffee tables.

**Luxury Updates.** Renovators have zoomed in on the master suite as a way to improve sleep and promote wellness at home. More homeowners are adding luxury baths and walk-in closets to bedrooms to create a complete master suite effect.

**Sustainable Homes.** Homeowners continue to make functional and aesthetic changes that honor natural spaces.

List Now and be a Part of the **SPRING MARKET!**

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