

## Be Prepared

**A general checklist to prepare your home and enhance its marketability:**

### **First Impressions Count. . .**

- Manicure the yard: mow lawn, mulch, edge the sidewalk, sweep the walk and/or porch, trim shrubs/trees, remove leaves, snow and/or ice
- Create an inviting front door or porch: paint, polish brass, and plant flowers, repair any damage boards, steps or walkway.
- Put steps and walk in good condition
- Repair any loose or broken shutters
- Wash windows, replace broken and cracked panes, glaze where necessary.

### **Cleaning and Decorating to Sell . . .**

- Paint and patch plaster wherever possible or necessary
- Clean finger smudges from walls, doors and kitchen cabinets
- Polish hardwood floors - Shampoo carpets
- Clean floor, cabinets, appliances, fans in kitchen
- Unclutter kitchen drawers, counters, closets and table tops.
- Remove excess furniture from house
- Repair loose knobs and sticking windows.
- Clean fireplace and fill with logs
- Check light bulbs and switches, especially in basement
- Deodorize basement, pet areas (clean litter box, bed, cages), bathrooms, and kitchen
- Caulk bathrooms; eliminate drips and mildew
- Remove dying plants and thin out excessive potted plants
- Put any large toys that children do not need in basement to show possible play area, pack up toys that are not being used.
- Paint walls and floors of unfinished basement areas.

### **Preparing for Showing or Open House . . .**

- Let the light in! Open draperies/blinds and turn on lights
- Turn off TV and stereo
- As a precaution put jewelry, credit cards and money out of sight
- Make beds, close drawers and closet doors, tidy kitchen and bathrooms
- Lower commode lids.
- Remove pets to the neighbors or kennel