

IN THIS NEWS LETTER, WE WILL DISCUSS...

- End of the summer Party
- Maintaining Your Home While It's For Sale
- “Turbo Note”

End of the summer Party

Since it's finally sunny here in Seattle, it's the perfect time for having a summer party! The first step to hosting a party is -of course- organizing; you really can't have people over until your house is in order. Perhaps you have let your outside deck go, and it is time to perform the ritual de-cluttering of toys, extra BBQ and yard tools. The kitchen may also need a once-over. I am sure by now you have set up a system for your kitchen, but perhaps it's gotten a little cluttered. Take the time now to get it back to its previous state of affairs.

We've been having some wonderful 80 degrees days, so it's time to decide if you're up for cooking, or want to do a potluck. The nice thing about cooking is that you have control over the menu! The bumper is the clean-up is all

about you! You might also be left slaving over a hot stove in this heat, which can be a pain. To avoid this, you can make cold dishes like potato salad, and stick to barbequing. But to save hours of cooking and clean up, hosting a potluck may be the way to go! Try using **Evite** (www.evite.com) and then you can arrange for what you want people to bring; one couple can bring dessert, another can bring the beverages and so on. Try opting for paper plates and plastic ware. The paper plates can go into yard waste. By doing a potluck and using paper goods and plastic ware the clean up should be minimal. Your only prep will be organizing and cleaning; something that should be done anyway. To keep on track, use this handy list and have a great party!

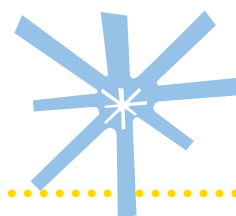
Ahead of time

- Create a guest list
- Create the menu
- Send out the Evite
- Organize the food (who should bring what)
- Re-organize your kitchen
- Clean up back yard and deck
- Go grocery shopping (for what you are providing)
- Clean the house (or bring cleaners in)

On Party Day

- Set up table for food
- Arrange seating

Whether you decide to cook yourself or have a potluck, just be sure to plan ahead so you are not running around at the last minute! Enjoy yourself!



Maintaining Your Home While It's For Sale

Summer is a popular time to sell houses. One of the hardest parts about selling a home is *living in it* while it's being sold. Below are some simple and practical ways to maintain your newly staged home while it's on the market.

Things to do each day to keep you on track:

IN THE MORNING:

Bedrooms:

- Make the beds
- Clear off any clutter on nightstands
- Make sure there are no dirty clothes on the floor

Bathroom:

- Keep countertops clutter-free. This would be a perfect time to purchase those basket organizers you have been eyeing!
- Make sure there are clean hand towels and hand soap available
- Make sure there is toilet paper

Kitchen:

- Make sure the countertops are clutter free and clean
- If there is a cooking smell, air out your kitchen, or bake cookies!

Den/family room:

- Make sure there are no dirty dishes laying out
- Dust surfaces, if needed

IN THE EVENING:

Kitchen

- Clean up kitchen and leave nothing out
- Run the dishwasher and empty it

Den/family room:

- Fold up any blankets or throws that you used



If your budget allows, consider hiring a cleaning service as well as a yard service, to save you time and energy, and give your place the professional touch.

"Turbo Note"

Turbo note is a computer program that allows you to create sticky notes on your computer desktop. It was developed to replace the sticky notes stuck all over your computer screen and desk.

The Good News:

Turbo Note is great for people who tend to clutter up their desks and computer monitors with Post-It notes. If used properly, Turbo Note can help you with the following:

- No more Post-It notes getting thrown away accidentally
- No more losing important phone numbers
- No more forgetting important appointments
- No more Post-It note messes all over your desk and computer

The Bad News:

If you have a "problem" with Post-It notes, this may help, but you will definitely have to retrain yourself to use technology, instead of paper. This retraining can be a HUGE process, and even then the following can still occur:

- Accidentally throwing away important notes
- Your computer crashing, risking losing important notes
- Neglecting to write down important dates and phone numbers

The Bottom Line:

If you are willing to commit yourself to changing this particularly bad habit, then Turbo Note is a great product to use. The price is reasonable, the company has a good review and using Turbo Note could help you with this particular problem. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/5o6p59> to read a review.



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