

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

Home *Guide*



Spring abodes

Budding trends in the home this season.

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

As the Reno-Tahoe housing market braces for potentially higher interest rates, area experts remain optimistic that home buyers and sellers can be successful in the market. Here's their advice, as well as insights into what's popular for homes this spring and how to be mindful of the environment inside your home.





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Interesting Interest Rates

Kevin Jepsen, loan officer with Omega Mortgage Group in Reno, acknowledges March is a big month for the mortgage industry.

"This marks the rollout for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates to combat inflation," he says. "It's even more important for buyers moving forward to take the time to make sure their finances are in order. See what debt you can alleviate before buying a home, and be prepared to make slightly higher payments, but this change is no reason to panic."

Last year around this time, Betsy Caron, Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties in Sparks, received a call from a couple who wanted to buy a home but had bad credit. She urged them to call a trusted lender and get to work. The couple closed on their new house this January.

"I'm in it for the long haul," Caron says. "It's always good to work with your real estate agent and the lender as a team. People get nervous to talk with a lender, but you really should do so at least three to six months before you want to buy to make sure everything is in order when you make an offer."

Karen Walker Hill, residential specialist at Ferrari-Lund Real Estate in Reno, echoes the sentiment, adding the Reno/Tahoe still is a seller's market.



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"Spring is the perfect time to sell your home because people are thinking it's the end of the school year, and they want to relocate before summer. Plus, flowers are coming up, and it makes everything show so pretty. Inventory is at an all-time low. It's easy peasy right now to be a seller — you're the belle of the ball and can expect multiple offers and overbids."

Power Precautions

American homes are using more power than ever before. Smartphones, smart devices, and all of the modern conveniences that have become part of life increase demand on the home's electrical system. Joseph Kruse, project manager with EVO Electric in Reno, encourages homeowners to be aware of the additional burden being placed on the home.



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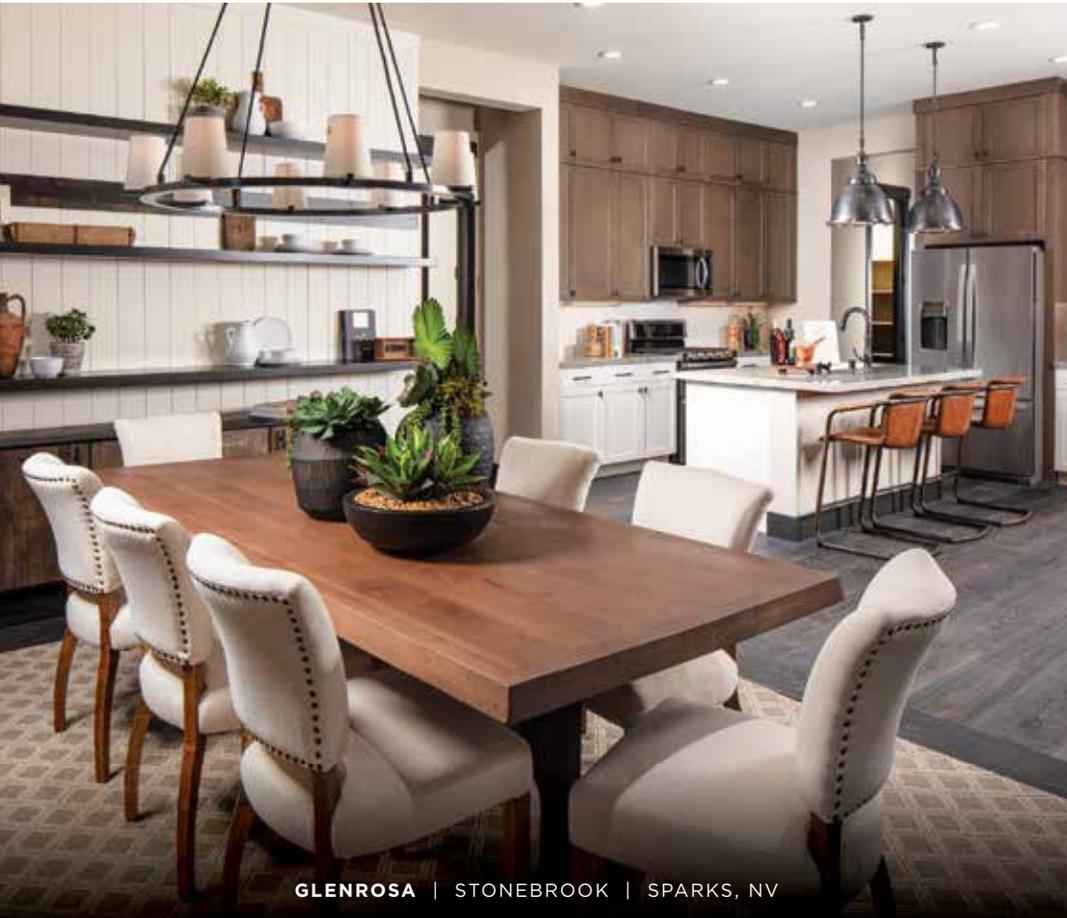
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“Some things that homeowners can do that involve little to no danger are to check all of your electrical fixtures to make sure the correct wattages are being utilized in the devices,” Kruse notes. “Having your systems tested and inspected once a year by a qualified professional can provide peace of mind.”

Look at LEDs

Gone are the days of halogen and incandescent lighting. Bring on the LEDs. Sam Olson, team lead/owner of The Olson Group of RE/MAX Realty Affiliates in Reno, explains, “When they’re done right, they are fantastic. If they’re the cool blue color, they are really sterile and really bad.”

Olson recommends considering flush-mount ceiling lights and replacing old bulbs with LED technology, but with one key tip.

“Be sure to get warm tones like warm yellow,” he says. “The LEDs are so much better now, and the cost has come down significantly. Be mindful of your lighting plan in your home and add warm, welcoming hues.”



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Quartz Countertops

Evan Petty, manager of Majestic Marble & Tile in Carson City, continues to notice a big demand for quartz countertops, because of both the ease of caring for them and the color schemes available in the engineered material.

“The gray tones and marble look, with gray and white, are really popular. People like the honed or polished look, and quartz is maintenance free, so you don’t have to seal it. It’s a great option,” Petty says.

In addition, he suggests using a different statement countertop on a center island meant for entertaining and seating; then keep the perimeter of the kitchen topped with something more low key.



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Fine Frames

Consider custom framing to really make that favorite picture or artwork pop. Christel Citko, gallerist with Art Source Gallery in Reno, encourages enthusiasts to keep their business local and skip the trip to the Bay Area. With a huge selection of frame molding samples, including hand-crafted wood frames with elegant corner décor for fine art, Art Source Gallery is able to provide custom framing to your specifications.

"Looking for something different?" Citko asks. "View our exclusive dynamic steel frame selection with widths up to four inches, in an array of colors. We also offer a variety of in-stock frame molding, mattes, and fabrics."

"Remember," she adds, "if your artwork was framed over 10 years ago, it is not archivally safe, and it's best to visit us soon for a consultation."

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Bring the Outside In

When decorating, consider using organic elements, even in a modern setting.

"It's really important to stay grounded with raw wood and natural fibers to keep a space warm if you're going more contemporary," explains Charlotte Michaels, founder and manager of Transcend Interiors in Reno. "Especially when you're dealing with fabrics, you can use cotton and soft fur, even if it's faux fur; it gives you the outdoor feeling."

Michaels suggests animal print on pillows and area rugs. She also mentions live-edge tables, end tables, and headboards, as well as adding live plants to the mix.

"Any time you can bring plants in, they provide a healthy aspect and are a nice way to keep a space feeling cozy," Michaels says.





Trails Abound

One of the big draws of the region is its numerous ways to enjoy the great outdoors. With that in mind, home builder Toll Brothers plans for open space, gathering spaces, and trail systems within and near its communities.

“The Truckee Meadows contains many wetlands and existing trail systems that we enjoy highlighting when it comes to the trails inside our communities,” explains Donna O’Connell, Reno division president of Toll Brothers. “We also consider the native animals, flora, and fauna, with extensive efforts to protect the habitat and ecosystem in the area.”



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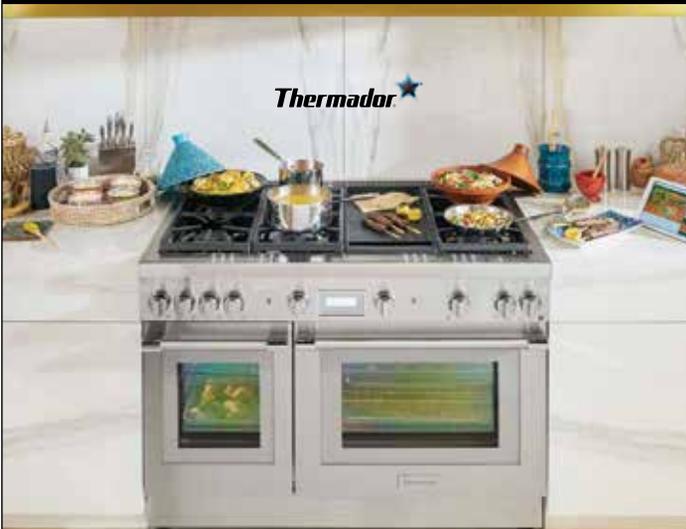
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Enjoy the Now

With snags in the supply chain and shipping delays, Steve Gunderson, project manager with Curtis Bros. Construction Inc. in Reno, urges folks to sit back, relax, and take pleasure in what you have.

"Right now, we're not even starting projects until all the products are here," Gunderson explains. "The No. 1 thing people need to be is patient because there are a lot of factors at play when it comes to remodeling or renovating a home."

Gunderson goes on to explain that it may be best to hold tight on projects for the foreseeable future until products and materials are more readily available.

Whether you're looking to buy a new house, be more environmentally friendly in your design, or need outdoor inspiration, Reno-Tahoe is a mecca for all things home. Be sure to contact a local expert for more information today. ❖

