



# the home

# connection



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## EYE ON THE MARKET



Incredible values, record-low mortgage rates, increased rents and an improving job market are all strong indicators that our market has turned the corner towards a

sustainable recovery. We are also seeing a small uptick in new construction starts which means more local jobs to be filled and additional homes for Buyers to consider.

Open houses are drawing crowds. Multiple offers are a commonality in some areas and price points. Buyers are in a frenzy for more inventory as a majority of new listings close to job centers are selling within a single month.

Sellers are recognizing the importance of receiving guidance from their licensed real estate Broker regarding values and pricing in specific neighborhoods. Remember that real estate is always local; each area tells it's own story of how the market is recovering.

A wave of foreclosures is leading investors to grab bargain-priced homes. "Shadow inventory" should not be viewed as a current threat in the Puget Sound region due to low inventory levels. You may notice that banks are more cooperative and short sale responses are quicker than they used to be.

All in all, it's a great time to live, work and invest in our area!

## A+ CURB APPEAL

First impressions count! If you're preparing to sell your home, a great first impression is especially important. Here are some tips for rolling out the welcome mat to create eye-catching curb appeal without spending a fortune:

- Power-wash your driveway and walkways to remove oil, rust and other stains.
- Clear the pathway to your front door by cutting back any overgrown trees or shrubs.
- Check for cobwebs and wipe down your front door and kick plate. Consider painting your door if it's looking faded/worn.
- Freshly planted pots blooming with color add an inviting feel.
- A new layer of bark will immediately improve the look of your yard. Well-maintained, clutter free yards are always appealing.
- Make your fence pop with a semitransparent stain. It will even out signs of aging and help cover discoloration. Don't forget your deck, steps, rails, shed, etc.
- Add some path and landscape lighting to highlight the best plants in your yard.
- Crystal clear windows are a strong indicator that your house has been well cared for.



## EVENT CALENDAR



Set aside some time for FUN this month! Here's a look at what's going on in our area:

- 6 Tacoma City Marathon**  
tacomacitymarathon.com
- 1-31 Savor Seattle Pike Place Market Tour**  
savorseattletours.com
- 5 & 19 Toddler Tales & Trails**  
sewardpark.audubon.org
- 12 Kirkland Artists Studio Tour**  
kirklandstudiotour.com
- 13 Kirkland Half Marathon**  
kirklandhalfmarathon.com
- 10-12 Seattle Maritime Festival**  
portseattle.org
- 12 Kid's Fish-In Event**  
everettwa.org/parks
- 20 Beat the Bridge - Seattle**  
beatthebridge.org
- 17-6.10 Seattle Int'l Film Festival**  
siff.net | 206.324.9996
- 12 Whiskers, Wings & Tails**  
A Pet Fair, Redmond  
redmond.gov
- 19-20 Rhododendron Show**  
Bellevue Botanical Garden
- 25-28 Northwest Folklife Festival**  
nwfolklife.org
- 26 Tacoma Jazz Festival**  
tacomajazzfestival.com
- 27 Ski to Sea Marathon**  
Mt. Baker to Bellingham Bay  
skitosea.com | 360.318.7332
- 28 Seven Hills of Kirkland**  
Premier bicycling event  
7hillskirkland.org

# MAY CELEBRATION CALENDAR



**Tuesday, May 1st**  
May Day

**Tuesday, May 8th**  
National Teacher's Day

**Saturday, May 5th**  
Cinco de Mayo  
Opening Day of Boating

**Sunday, May 13th**  
Mother's Day

**Saturday, May 19th**  
Armed Forces Day

**Monday, May 28th**  
Memorial Day

## KEEP CALM and CALL YOUR MOM



Since its birth as a National Holiday in 1914, the second Sunday of May has been dedicated to showering the Moms in our lives with love and appreciation. Here are some ideas to help you do just that:

### For a Fitness-Loving Mom:

A new outfit for the gym or some spiffy new kicks can put a spring in her step. A gift certificate to check out a new fitness trend is always fun, too!

### For a Garden-Loving Mom:

Offer to attend one of the many wonderful events or workshops at Molbaks with her. Surprise her with colorful flowers for her garden or annual pots. [www.molbaks.com](http://www.molbaks.com)

### For a Tech-Loving Mom:

Complete her wish list with a new iPad...and show her how to use it. Help her keep connected with all the important people in

### For a Craft-Loving Mom:

Make her a custom photo book full of fun family memories or give her some time to herself to flex her creative muscles. [www.shutterfly.com](http://www.shutterfly.com)

### For a Luxury-Loving Mom:

Personalized, 300-thread count cotton percale sheets [www.westelm.com](http://www.westelm.com)  
Of course a day at the spa never goes out of style. [www.spafinder.com](http://www.spafinder.com)

### For a Culinary-Loving Mom:

Indulge her culinary interests by giving her time to attend a hands-on cooking course or workshop. [www.wholefoods.com](http://www.wholefoods.com)

## IN THE GARDEN



There's plenty to do on sunny days in May. Dust off your garden gloves and *dig in!*

- With the last frost date hopefully behind us now, it's safe to plant warm-season annual flowers, herbs and vegetables (tomatoes, basil, marigolds, petunias and the like). This includes containers, pots, window boxes and planters.



- Remove any cold season plants you may already have planted.
- Work in a slow-release fertilizer to aid in the health of your plants.
- It's also a great time to plant summer bulbs, seeds for corn, green beans, squash, cucumbers, okra, melons and other heat lovers.



- Throughout Spring time, continue to deadhead and feed your flowers to keep them bursting with color!
- Check out your favorite garden store for great planting ideas, current design trends, new garden gear and advice.