

SPECIAL ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Home *Guide*



## Bright Ideas for the Home

**Local experts shine light on elements to keep top of mind during the summertime.**

WRITTEN BY HEIDI BETHEL

Summer is here, bringing with it plenty of sunshine, time outdoors, backyard barbecues, and projects and maintenance around your home. We spoke to area professionals who have all the details on how to make the most of a beautiful season.







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### Curb Appeal

Outside spaces should become an extension of the indoors. Starting with the front entry, visitors and potential buyers should be able to get a feel for the space, whether you're entertaining or selling your house. Betsy Caron, Realtor with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties in Sparks, explains that curb appeal is just that — appealing.

"It's that first picture people get when looking at a listing," she notes. "It matters. You're not really supposed to judge a book by its cover, but you want the outside to look just as good as the inside. You want a good story to start on the outside."

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When hosting a gathering, take advantage of the stunning sunsets and pleasant weather the season brings.

"We're seeing amazing, full entertainment spaces with built-in kitchens, bocce ball courts, cornhole, covered patios, firepits and fireplaces, even beautiful water features," says Donna O'Connell, Reno division president of Toll Brothers. "The options are endless for turning a backyard into a beautiful escape for all to enjoy. Outdoor spaces are about so much more than swimming pools. In Northern Nevada, we can enjoy our backyards as an extension of our indoor spaces."

Tayona Tate, global real estate adviser with Compass in Reno, encourages readers to get creative with party plans outside.

"Backyard movies and s'mores nights with inflatable screens are a fun way to bring us back to our childhood," Tate suggests. "Even camping on the lawn under the stars can be an option. You can put a fun adult spin on things while keeping it nostalgic and memorable for all your guests."



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### Keep Your Cool

Toward the end of the summer months, it's important to service air conditioners and condenser units. Sam Olson, team lead/owner of The Olson Group of RE/MAX Realty Affiliates in Reno, suggests hiring a professional HVAC company to service and cover any outdoor appliances. He also encourages folks to take advantage of the summer rain in an unexpected way.

"During the summer downpours that we will likely have, check your gutters and make sure there's not a lot of black sand in there because that's a sign your roof is starting to fail," he says. "We have the opportunity right now in the summer because you're outside more after it rains, and it's important to make sure you're ahead of the home maintenance game."



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Speaking of showers, Jeff Mecca, showroom manager for Western Nevada Supply in Reno, notes a lot of interest in renovating or updating bathrooms.

“When it comes to showers, we have a lot of ways to make them your own,” he explains. “Rain cans, hand shower slide bars that adjust the height of the shower head, massage features, linear drains that create a cleaner look ... and we can make them more ADA accessible. Some people choose to incorporate steam because of the dry climate and integrate emulsifying oils, sound systems, even remote starts.”

The options are seemingly endless when it comes to creating the perfect shower, bathroom, and beyond.



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Jennifer Dunbar, estimator and project coordinator for Majestic Marble & Tile in Reno, reminds folks it may be time to strip and seal natural stone countertops and other elements throughout the house.

"They are very porous, so sealing them is the key to keeping stone looking on the newer side," she notes. "If you do it in the fall and make it a ritual, the leaves are going to start turning and remind you that you need to take care of the counters. It's the same concept as aerating the lawn in the spring."

### Hanging Memories

July and August tend to be popular months for weddings and other special occasions. Michele Larson, owner of The Frame Shop, with one location in Reno and one in Sparks, sees many customers encapsulating photos, invitations, signed matts, even small mementos in frames and shadow boxes.

"When it comes to any special occasion, the sky is the limit with what you want to showcase," she says. "It could be a shadow box with something old, new, borrowed, or blue, with a wedding or engagement photo. The matts we've done, where everyone signs them, are a great way to include your guests in the piece you're choosing to remember that special day."

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### Protected Assets

As financial futures continue to seem uncertain, Karen Walker Hill, residential specialist for Ferrari-Lund Real Estate in Reno, urges those looking for investment opportunities to consider real estate.

"The ideal thing when the world is in a recession is to own something tangible rather than money that is losing value," she explains. "Real estate is the best way to protect your money during a recession. Absolutely use your cash and protect it by owning a property. If you are considering it, get on it with the market because you need to buy now while you can still afford it. What was the best day to plant a tree? Twenty years ago. What's the second best day? Right now."

Whether you're in the market, looking for a pet project, or just want to have a little summertime fun, now is the time to enjoy your home and cherish the family, friends, and neighbors around you. If you need extra help, contact these local professionals who are eager to lend a hand. ❖

## HOME GUIDE RESOURCES

**Betsy Caron, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Drysdale Properties**  
Bhhsdrysdale.com

**Nova Tile & Stone**  
Novatileandstone.com

**Curtis Bros. Construction**  
Curtisbros.com

**Omega Mortgage Group**  
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**Czyz's Appliance**  
Czyzsbrandsource.com

**Tayona Tate, Compass**  
Compass.com

**Desert Wind Homes**  
Desertwindhomes.com

**The Frame Shop**  
Nvframes.com

**EVO Electric**  
Evoelectricnv.com

**The Olson Group of RE/MAX Gold**  
Olsonrealestategroup.com

**Karen Walker Hill, Ferrari-Lund Real Estate**  
Ferrari-lund.com

**Toll Brothers**  
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**Majestic Marble & Tile**  
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