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N AMY Shair's TRIANGLE NEWSLETTER

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Small Home Upgrades = Big Impact

Home improvement pros & DIYers recommend a fresh coat of paint as a low-cost home upgrade that can make a big impact. But what else can you do to accessorize and decorate affordably? Sometimes little changes can make a larger difference in your home than you ever thought!

For the Bathroom

Frame It: That edgeless, builder-grade mirror hanging in the bathroom is prime for an upgrade. There are many frame styles & materials to choose from for a completely new look.

Infuse Some Green: Simply adding plants, even artificial ones can liven up a bathroom.

Modernize Hardware: Swapping out the faucets or drawer can instantly refresh a bathroom.

For the Bedroom

Add Molding to the Walls: Installing decorative molding on a wall is an impressive upgrade.

Decorate With Mirrors: A mirror is a perfect low cost design tool. Try one in an unusual shape like a diamond or hexagon.

For the Living Room

Texturize and Accessorize: Add texture with a chunky knit throw blanket, velvet pillows or a leather accent chair.

Wallpaper the Shelves: Add a pop of color or a design to the inside back of a bookcase or other shelving to dress up a room without committing to a wall of wallpaper.

For the Kitchen

Bring in Some Bling: Update the cabinet hardware or add shiny metal pendant lights.

Dress Up the Pantry: Store items in baskets or glass jars, use a label maker so everything matches & has a dedicated home.

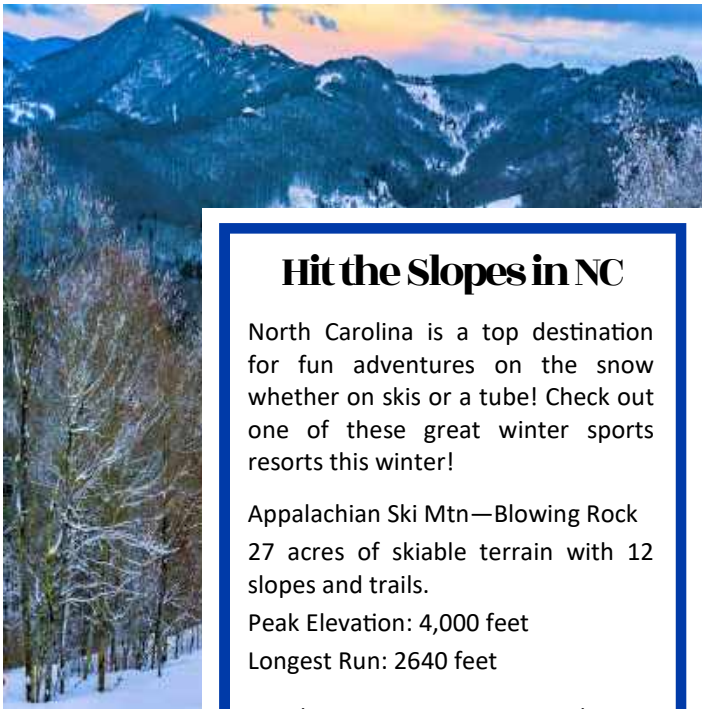
For Outdoors

Accentuate with Flower Boxes: Boxes filled with flowers along the bottom ledge of outside windows can have a big impact on your home's architecture & color. Don't overdo it, not every window needs one.

Swap Out Lighting Fixtures: Install a hanging pendant or chandelier over the front door. A statement light on the front porch isn't just for extra light, it can enhance curb appeal.

If you need a recommendation for a vendor to help with these or any other home projects, give me a call!

Amy



Hit the Slopes in NC

North Carolina is a top destination for fun adventures on the snow whether on skis or a tube! Check out one of these great winter sports resorts this winter!

Appalachian Ski Mtn—Blowing Rock
27 acres of skiable terrain with 12 slopes and trails.

Peak Elevation: 4,000 feet
Longest Run: 2640 feet

Beech Mountain Resort—Beech Mtn
95 acres of skiable terrain with 17 slopes and trails and a 700 foot long tubing park.

Peak Elevation: 5,506 feet
Longest Run: 1 mile

Cataloochee Ski Area—Maggie Valley
50 acres of skiable terrain with 18 slopes and trails.

Peak Elevation: 5,400 feet
Longest Run: 3,500 feet

Sugar Mountain Resort—Sugar Mtn
125 acres of skiable area with 20 slopes and trails, a tubing park and ice skating rink.

Peak Elevation: 5,300 feet
Longest Run: 1.5 miles

Ski Sapphire Valley—Sapphire Valley
8 acres of skiable terrain with two trails and a 500 foot tube park

Peak Elevation: 3,400 feet
Longest Run: 1,600 feet

10 Minute Projects to Declutter Your Home

Entryway Drop Spot: Put pocket change in a cup or other decorative container, recycle junk mail, hang up coats, and put away items that have migrated here from other areas of the home. If there are library books or other items waiting to be returned, take a moment to carry them out to the car so that they're ready and waiting—and not cluttering up your entryway.

Food Storage Containers: Open up that messy Tupperware drawer or cabinet and pull everything out. Match up containers with their lids and recycle mate-less pieces. Stack everything neatly and return it to the drawer or cabinet.

Sock Drawer: Open up the dreaded sock drawer and pull out all the socks. Match up pairs and inspect for holes or worn areas. Fold the sets that have mates and are in good condition and return to the drawer. Check the laundry area for matches to the mate-less socks before giving up on them for good. Collect mate-less socks and worn socks in a bag to be used as rags or to recycle at a textile recycling drop-off location.

Pen Cup: First, scoop up all the pens and pencils that are not already in the pen cup, but instead are strewn about the kitchen counter, dining table, and any other flat surface in the area. Grab a scratch sheet of paper and start testing. Toss out pens that are out of ink and put your favorites back in the cup. If you still have more pens than you know what to do with, set them aside to donate. Many schools and some nonprofits are happy to receive donations of office supplies in good condition.



MARKET WATCH

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When to Repair or Replace Your Appliances

When an appliance is old and inefficient, you may decide to replace it instead of trying to repair it. But when that appliance breaks before its time, making the decision to repair-or-replace can be harder. If money is tight you may have to repair the appliance, but if you can afford to replace it with a newer energy-efficient model, that may be the better way to go. This is often a hard decision to make, so here are some helpful guidelines.



Is It Really Broken?

When an appliance stops working we are often upset and forget to check the obvious. Before you panic, make sure:

- The appliance is properly plugged in.
- A Circuit breaker hasn't tripped.
- Vents and filters aren't clogged causing an emergency shut off.

Is It Still Under Warranty?

Check your owner's manual to see if the appliance is still under warranty. If it's still covered, schedule a service call.

Is it Truly at the End of Its Useful Life?

Appliances have an average useful life—after which the machines are running on borrowed time. The closer the appliance is to this “past-due” date, the smarter the decision to replace than repair.

Appliance	Avg Lifespan	Appliance	Avg Lifespan	Appliance	Avg Lifespan
Washer	5-15yr	Refrigerator	9-13yr	Range	13-17yr
Dryer	13yr	Dishwasher	9yr	Microwave	9yr

Follow the 50% Rule

If the appliance is more than 50% through its lifespan and if the repair costs are more than 50% of the cost of a new one, you should replace rather than repair.

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Tips for Saving Time in the Morning

Especially in the Winter getting out the door in the mornings fed, dressed and on time can seem like a daily battle. How can you get out the door faster? Here are a few easy adjustments that can shorten your morning routine:

The Night Before

- Write out tomorrow's to-do list so you can go to sleep with less on your mind.
- Pack your bag so you don't spend time trying to find everything you need for the day.
- Preparing your lunch (and kids lunches) the night before saves you a lot of time and is good for your wallet.
- Check the forecast for tomorrow and plan your outfit and ensure everything is ready to wear.

In The Morning

- Lay off the “snooze” button, each time you doze off you are resetting your sleep cycle which can make you feel groggier when you finally roll out of bed.
- Let the sun in, research has shown it can help you feel awake faster.
- Drink a cold glass of water to give your metabolism and energy level a boost.
- Ignore your phone, computer and TV. These can easily distract you and lose track of time.
- Have a fast, nutritious breakfast available, something you can take on the road if you are running late.
- Have a set location for your daily items (keys, bag, phone, coat) so you don't waste time looking for them.