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NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES

FAMILIES on the MOVE

TIPS FOR MINIMIZING THE STRESS OF MOVING

Moving, specifically buying or selling a house, is considered one of life's most significant events.

For families undergoing a move, here are some tips to make the process smoother.

TIMING YOUR MOVE

There's no universally perfect time to initiate buying or selling. Working with a licensed real estate agent gives you access to a coach who will guide you through the process any time of year.

HELP EASE TRANSITION TO A NEW SCHOOL

Moving before the academic year begins will allow your child to start along with the rest of the class. Enrolling children in sports or other activities can also help them feel welcome.

A LITTLE-KNOWN TRICK (OR TREAT) COULD MAKE A FALL LISTING WORK FOR YOU

Having a for sale sign in your yard during Halloween can be a great way to expose your home to potential buyers who are already walking past.

DON'T OVERLOOK SELLING OVER THE HOLIDAYS

Both buyers and sellers tend to be more motivated, and both parties may have an easier time finding movers and other service providers. Plus, homes can look their best with a little holiday trim!

PREPARING YOUR HOME TO SELL

For families with kids, it can be difficult to keep your home neat and appealing to potential buyers while actively living in it.

DECLUTTER IN A MAJOR WAY!

Start packing now and rent a storage facility for what you don't immediately need — including photos and home items personal to your family. Then, donate to local organizations or sell items in good condition.

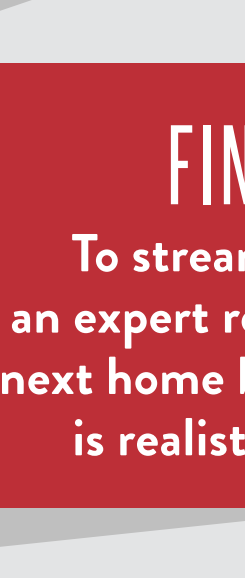
GIVE EACH ROOM ONE FOCUS

Rooms that appear to have dual purposes (think a combined guest room and office) can subconsciously signal to potential buyers that your home is smaller than it actually is.

TIME HOUSE SHOWINGS FOR WHEN YOU KNOW YOUR HOUSE WILL ALREADY BE EMPTY

Working with your real estate agent to schedule an open house during your vacation or a visit to your new city means your home will be clean and empty — perfect timing for your agent to show it off to potential buyers!

PERFECT YOUR PREPARATION PROCESS



WHEN VIEWING POTENTIAL HOMES, CONSIDER WHAT YOU CAN'T CHANGE FIRST

You can't do much about a home's location, but there are plenty of features that don't need to be deal-breakers.

HELP YOUR AGENT HELP YOU

It takes some grace to accommodate a last-minute showing, but adopting a flexible attitude can make all the difference in helping your home sell.

FINDING YOUR NEW HOME

To streamline your search, use your agent as an expert resource. Share your "wish list" for your next home but allow them to be candid about what is realistic within your timeline and budget.



CONSIDER BRINGING YOUR CHILDREN ON HOME TOURS TO HELP THEM FEEL PART OF THE PROCESS

Don't forget the snacks and toys, and build in extra time for showings and traveling between homes.

Give your child a special job, such as taking photos of each home or recording your family's feedback in a fun notebook.

STEP BACK AND OBSERVE

Children can naturally identify potential safety issues, so keeping a watchful eye while allowing them to explore can help determine if there are any deal-breakers for your family. Families of children with special needs may find this particularly useful.

IT'S NOT JUST WHAT'S ON THE INSIDE THAT COUNTS

Take a walk outside each home to get the full picture. Make sure sloped surfaces, sidewalks and driveways work with your family's lifestyle.

MASTERING THE MOVE

Once the stress of coordinating the buying and selling has lessened, it's time to focus on a smooth transition from one home to another.

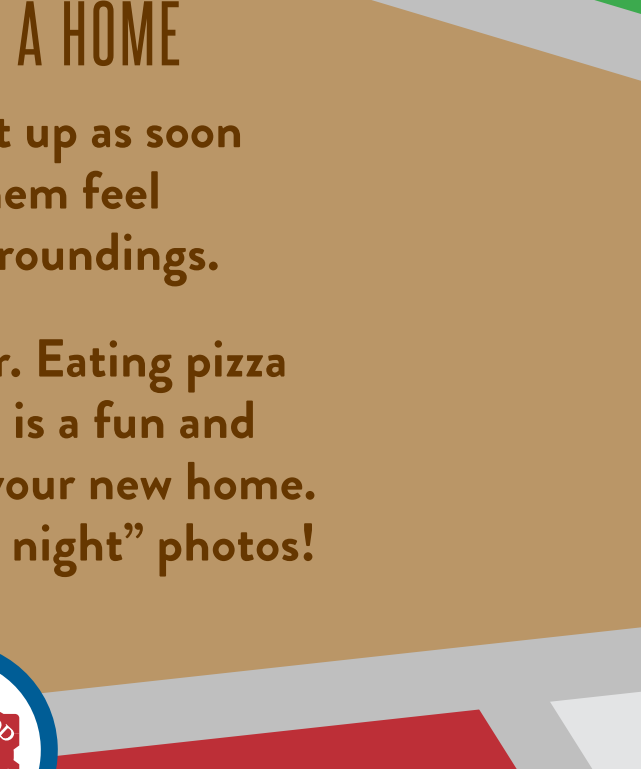
PRESERVE MEMORIES

Capture photos or videos of your children in each room of the house you're leaving and special spots like the tree in your front yard.

PACK FOR SUCCESS

Pack your items in small or medium boxes whenever possible so one person can move them easily.

Label each room of your new home so it matches the label on each box. While you know what "bedroom #2" means, your movers may not.



MAKE YOUR NEW HOUSE A HOME

Having your child's room set up as soon as you arrive can help them feel comforted in their new surroundings.

Plan simple celebration dinner. Eating pizza surrounded by moving boxes is a fun and memorable way to start life in your new home. Don't forget to take some "first night" photos!

Northwood Realty Services is one of the region's largest real estate service providers, serving customers in Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio. Northwood and its affiliates provide clients with full-service real estate solutions that cover every step of the home buying and selling process.

This information was developed by Northwood Realty Services and The Motherhood, Inc. in grateful collaboration with the following bloggers:

FEMME FRUGALITY

GREEN EYED LADY BLOG

HAPPENINGS OF THE HARPER HOUSEHOLD

HOME WITH CUPCAKES AND CRINOLINE

LEXIE LOO, LILY, LIAM AND DYLAN, TOO!

'LIL BURGHERS

MY NOT SO LITTLE GUY AND MY LITTLE PUNKY & PUMPKIN PIES

OLD HOUSE TO NEW HOME

THE SWEETER SIDE OF MOMMYHOOD

THIRD STOP ON THE RIGHT



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