

# April 2015

## Talk About Frederick

[www.talkaboutfrederick.com](http://www.talkaboutfrederick.com)



### Upcoming Events

#### April 25 – 26 South Mountain Spring Festival

During this weekend there will be tours including: Distillery Lane Ciderworks, Orchid Cellar Meadery and Winery, Elk Mountain Trails, Caprikorn Farms Artisan Goat Cheese, Van Gilder Pottery and Penguin Forge. Saturday, April 25th, 10am-4pm Sunday, April 26th, 12pm-4pm Details: <http://www.orchidcellar.com/events/>

#### May 2 First Saturday - Mayfest

Saturday, May 2, 2015 10:00 AM – 9:00 PM See the Downtown Frederick partnership events calendar.

#### May 9 Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off

The Department of Solid Waste Management will sponsor a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off event on Saturday, May 9, 2015 8am - noon at the Public Safety Training Facility at 5370 Public Safety Place in Frederick. For details call (301) 600-1848.

#### May 16 - 17 Garden Tour

1 – 5 PM Details about tickets and garden locations at: <http://www.celebratefrederick.com/events/garden-tour/>

#### June 14 - Summer Concert Series – Red Molly

June 14 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Baker Park Band Shell

### Talk About Frederick: Downtown FAQ

**Question:** Does the HPC care what color I paint my house?

**Answer:** by Lisa Mroszczk Murphy, AICP, Historic Preservation Planner for the City of Frederick. The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) does not review paint color and maintaining painted surfaces is encouraged. The HPC only reviews painting when it involves painting currently unpainted masonry or the removal of paint from masonry using chemical strippers, abrasive cleaning methods, power/pressure washing since historic materials can be damaged in either case. To see Lisa's entire answer go to the March 28, 2015 blog post at: [www.talkaboutfrederick.com](http://www.talkaboutfrederick.com).

#### Simple Fish Tacos

*Try This Light Spring Dinner*



#### Simple Fish Tacos

##### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1/2 package low sodium taco seasoning, divided
- 1 lb (4 total) cod or white fish fillets, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 cups shredded red and green cabbage
- 2 cups diced tomato
- 12 6-inch warmed corn tortillas
- Lime wedges for serving

##### Directions

In a small bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, cilantro and 2 tbsp. seasoning mix. In medium bowl, combine cod, oil, lemon juice and remaining seasoning mix; pour into large skillet. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium-high heat for 4 to 5 minutes or until cod flakes easily when tested with a fork. Fill taco shells with fish mixture. Top with cabbage, tomato, sour cream mixture, lime juice and taco sauce. Yields 6 servings.

[Recipe from BlueCross BlueShield.com](http://www.BlueCrossBlueShield.com)



Darcy Richards: Main: 301-698-5005 Cell: 301-524-3676  
darcyrichards01@gmail.com www.darcyrichards.com  
RE/MAX Results 7210 Corporate Ct #B Frederick MD 21701  
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## Tips for Making Friends in a New City

Moving to a new area brings the excitement of fresh opportunities and places to explore, but the thrill may be diminished by the loneliness that comes with lacking a social network in your new home. Some lucky transplants may easily find friendships in their neighborhoods or places of employment, while others may need to dig a bit deeper for their new social circles. Here are some tips for finding your pack after you relocate:



- Attend a Meetup. [Meetup.com](https://www.meetup.com) provides a forum for groups to congregate based on certain commonalities, like demographics, activities, or professions. You may even find a Meetup for people who are new to the area!
- Enroll in a class. Have you always wanted to improve your cooking skills? Practice public speaking with a group like Toastmasters? Find out what all the buzz is about with hot yoga? Now is the time to branch out and develop some new skills, and taking classes is a great way to meet people with similar interests.
- Volunteer for a cause about which you are passionate. Joining a volunteer group is another way to meet like-minded people, and relationships are easily forged when you are working towards a common goal. Plus, staying busy and helping with a good cause can keep those homesick blues at bay.
- Maintain an open mind. Remember that moving to a new place provides you an opportunity to break free of your comfort zone: challenge yourself to seize the chance to develop new aspects of your personality.

## 7 Easy Upgrades to Boost Your Home's Value

Increasing the value of your home does not always require drastic renovations and the high costs that accompany them. If your home is on the market or you are preparing to list it, a few inexpensive, do-it-yourself improvements will help to enhance its appeal to potential buyers.

### 1. Invest in minor cosmetic upgrades

to your kitchens and bathrooms. When it comes to resale value, improvements to kitchens and baths yield the greatest bang for your buck. Consider painting cabinets that are chipped or worn, and replacing outdated knobs and drawer pulls. A thorough cleaning of tile and grout will freshen up the room and make it look newer. Adding



simple fixtures such as towel racks in the bathroom helps buyers view the space as convenient and livable.

2. **Cut down on clutter.** Rooms that are free of clutter appear larger and allow buyers to more easily envision themselves living in the home. Wide open floor plans are popular among today's buyers, and reducing clutter is a quick way to make a space seem more open without having to make structural changes.

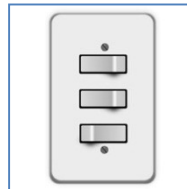
3. **Maintain landscaping.** First impressions matter, and the first image that buyers see of your home is its exterior. Overgrown trees and shrubs cause the property to look unkempt and obscure potential buyers' ability to get a clear view of the house.



When unruly landscaping borders the house, it can darken the interior and lead to mold growth on the siding. On the other hand, if your yard is a bit barren, adding a few well-placed shrubs or a tree will enhance curb appeal.

4. **Upgrade your window treatments.** Replacing plastic or aluminum blinds with plantation shutters or wooden blinds, or adding some tasteful drapes, will boost curb appeal and soften the interior of a room.

5. **Replace or spray paint outdated fixtures.** If you have lived in your home for a while, you may barely notice minor fixtures such as outlet covers, switch plates, doorknobs, or light fixtures. But if these odds and ends are adorned in outmoded hues, buyers will likely assume that your home is older.



These items may be replaced at a relatively low cost, or may often be spray painted with a fresher color. For example, you might opt to replace brass doorknobs or simply spray paint them with a popular finish like brushed nickel or oiled bronze.

6. **Apply a fresh coat of paint**

to cover scratches or outdated wall colors. Opting for a neutral color scheme will appeal to a wider range of buyers and help them to see your home as a blank slate for their personal styles.



7. **Spruce up your front door.** As with landscaping, the front door is one of the first images that buyers see of your home. If your front door is showing its age with dull, chipped paint or an outdated color, consider painting or replacing it.

The thought of undertaking renovations while your home is on the market can be daunting. Fortunately, a few minor investments of time and money will boost your home's attractiveness to potential buyers, helping it to sell more quickly and for the best possible price.