

## A Message from the President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®

### Spruce Up Your Curb Appeal to Make a Statement

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Are you looking to freshen up the exterior of your home, but you aren't quite sure what to do? Whether you're wanting to re-configure the flower beds or give your front door a fresh coat of paint, here are some inexpensive ways to make a considerable impact on your curb appeal.

#### **Focus on the little things.**

As the saying goes, "Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference". Look for the small, inexpensive ways that can drastically freshen up your exterior. Give your front door and shutters a fresh coat of paint. Replace outdated doorknobs and light fixtures. Refasten and re-paint railings. Add some personality to your front porch by purchasing a new piece of outdoor furniture and add some planters with fresh flowers.

#### **Pressure wash your space.**

You'll be surprised by how good things look after they get a good pressure washing! Pressure wash the exterior of siding, any concrete surfaces, front porch, back deck, fencing, and any other outdoor living space that may need a good scrub. Maintaining a clean exterior will make your home the shining star of the neighborhood.

#### **Fill in the cracks.**

Whether you have blacktop or concrete around your home, it can weather over time. By simply sealing your driveway or filling the cracks in your concrete walkways can instantly give your exterior a lively feel.

#### **Repaint or re-stain surfaces.**

A fresh coat of paint or stain can go a long way. Your front porch may need a good cleaning and re-painting. Re-stain or paint your back deck or any fencing around your home that may look tattered after the long winter months. And be sure to pick a color of paint or stain that matches the facade of your home, giving it a seamless and clean look.

#### **Add some color to your flower beds.**

Adding a little color to your exterior might be all you need to spruce up your curb appeal – no pun intended! Plant shrubs and perennials so they come back year after year. Select a variety of bushes that fill large empty spaces and beautiful flowers that complement each other giving your home that perfect pop of color.

#### **Show off your home at night.**

Adding some lighting to the exterior of your home can really take your curb appeal to a whole new level. Whether you add uplighting to highlight your home's features, line your walkway with solar lights or put emphasis on your beautiful new garden, the opportunities are endless. Your local hardware store will have many options available so it's best to go and look to see what the best fit for you might be.

Making small, subtle improvements to the exterior of your home will make a huge difference in your curb appeal. It will also ensure that your home looks clean and well-loved and that is something we can all admire. As we head into the summer months, now is the perfect time to start taking on these small projects to give your home new life!

*Michael Stevens is the 2023 President of the Youngstown Columbiana Association of REALTORS®*