

# Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

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*Don't just dream about a new home...TAKE ACTION!*



## March Is American Red Cross Month

- Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
- More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day.
- Donating blood is a safe process. A sterile needle is used only once for each donor and then discarded.
- The actual blood donation typically takes less than 10-12 minutes. The entire process, from the time you arrive to the time you leave, takes about an hour and 15 min.
- The average adult has about 10 pints of blood in his body. Roughly 1 pint is given during a donation.
- One donation can help save the lives of up to three people.

*The American Red Cross works with more than 50,000 blood drive sponsors each year to hold more than 200,000 blood drives, providing convenient locations for people to give blood.*

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

**MARCH HOME WARRANTY TIP:** Daylight Saving Time begins on March 11th. Mark the occasion by replacing batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

## March Maintenance Tips for Spring

*By Dwight Barnett, Scripps Howard News Service*

- Check for loose or leaky gutters. Improper drainage can lead to water in the basement or crawl space. Make sure downspouts drain away from the foundation and are clear and free of debris.
- Low areas in the yard or next to the foundation should be filled with compacted soil. Spring rains can cause yard flooding, which can lead to foundation flooding and damage. Also, when water pools in these low areas in summer, it creates a breeding ground for insects.
- Use a screwdriver to probe the wood trim around windows, doors, railings and decks. Make repairs now before the spring rains do more damage to the exposed wood.
- From the ground, examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during winter. If your home has an older roof covering, you may want to start a budget for replacement. The summer sun can really damage roof shingles. Shingles that are cracked, buckled or loose or are missing granules need to be replaced. Flashing around plumbing vents, skylights and chimneys need to be checked and repaired by a qualified roofer.
- Examine the exterior of the chimney for signs of damage. Have the flue cleaned and inspected by a certified chimney sweep.



- Inspect concrete slabs for signs of cracks or movement. All exterior slabs except pool decks should drain away from the home's foundation. Fill cracks with a concrete crack filler or silicone caulk. When weather permits, power-wash and then seal the concrete.



- Check outside hose faucets for freeze damage. Turn the water on and place your thumb or finger over the opening. If you can stop the flow of water, it is likely the pipe inside the home is damaged and will need to be replaced. While you're at it, check the garden hose for dry rot.

- Have a qualified heating and cooling contractor clean and service the outside unit of the air conditioning system. Clean coils operate more efficiently, and an annual service call will keep the system working at peak performance levels. Change interior filters on a regular basis.

For full article visit: [www.hgtv.com/home-improvement/a-few-tips-to-herald-the-arrival-of-spring/index.html](http://www.hgtv.com/home-improvement/a-few-tips-to-herald-the-arrival-of-spring/index.html)



**March 11th:** Daylight Saving Time Begins at 2:00 a.m. Spring forward by setting your clocks ahead 1 hour—all states but Arizona and Hawaii!

**March 17th:** St. Patrick's Day

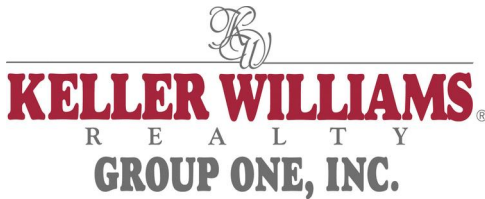
**March 20th:** First day of Spring





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**Repair, Replace, Relax** with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs.



*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.

## March is Berries and Cherries Month

Celebrate the start of spring with berries! Low in calories and high in vitamins, berries are a great addition to your day!

- Strawberries, raspberries and blackberries are not true berries. They are technically called aggregate fruits because of the way they are grown.
- Berries should be dry, firm, well shaped, and eaten within a week after purchase.
- Frozen berries can be kept in your freezer for up to 1 year. This means you can enjoy berries that are out of season year round!
- Soft, watery fruit means the berries are overripe.
- The Native Americans were the first to introduce berries to their diets.
- Berries are high in vitamins like A and C, fiber and antioxidants which can prevent certain types of cancer. They are also very low in calories and sodium.

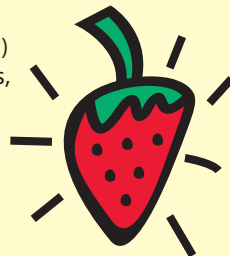


<http://ac.marywood.edu/acoppola/www/berries.html>

### TRIPLE BERRY OATMEAL SCONES

#### Ingredients:

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour, plus more for kneading
- 3/4 cup old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats (not instant)
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon grated lemon or orange zest (optional)
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 package (6 ounces) Driscoll’s Raspberries, Blackberries or Blueberries or
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped Driscoll’s Strawberries



#### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 425°F.
- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or coat with cooking spray.
- Combine flour, oats, baking powder, baking soda, salt, 2 tablespoons sugar, and zest, in a large bowl. Stir to mix.
- Add butter and beat with an electric mixer just until crumbly.
- Gradually beat in buttermilk.
- Fold in berries with a spoon or flexible spatula.
- Place dough on a well-floured work surface and knead gently 8 to 10 times.
- Pat into an 8-inch circle about 3/4-inch thick. With a floured spatula or sharp knife, cut 8 even wedges.
- Transfer to prepared baking sheet, leaving space between wedges. Sprinkle with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar and bake 18 to 20 minutes until light golden brown.
- Remove and cool on wire racks.

[www.driscolls.com/recipes/view/3205/Triple-Berry-Oatmeal-Scones](http://www.driscolls.com/recipes/view/3205/Triple-Berry-Oatmeal-Scones)