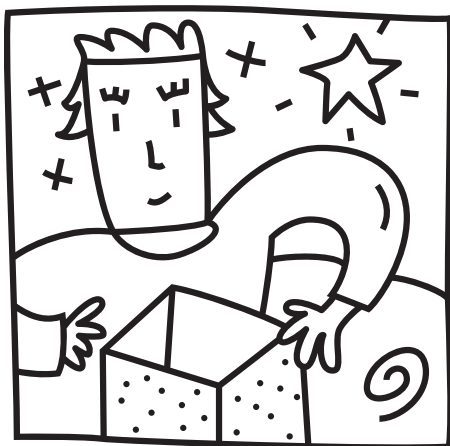


# Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2017



## Life-enhancing Home Resolutions for the New Year

*If you're in the mood for making a few resolutions, why not consider what you can do at home to help enhance your life?*

**Appreciate and savor what you have.** Why not make the start of the new year a time to focus on the abundance you already have in your life, rather than things on your wish list? Read books from your own shelves, cook meals from your pantry.

**Identify what you like.** Following your heart and choosing things for your home that you really like can be harder than it sounds. Sometimes it means not buying something until you can track down something better; other times it means ignoring what is "in" when it doesn't speak to you.

**Remove or change things you do not like.** Have you been living with a wall color, chair or box of mementos that is weighing

**JANUARY HOME WARRANTY TIP:** Review warranties and product material to check on recommended maintenance for furnace, equipment, appliances, and tools.

you down? Make 2017 the year to say goodbye to all of the things in your home that are not serving you.

**Don't let renting stop you from making your home a place where you love to be.** There are tons of things that can personalize a rental: removable wallpaper, stick-on picture hooks, area rugs, houseplants and curtains. Decide to stop waiting for a home you own to make the place you are living in now awesome.

**Refuse to buy anything unless you have a specific need or place for it.** Choose to start a new habit this year of spending more mindfully. Each time you find yourself considering a purchase, ask yourself whether you really need the item.

**Be brave and change the big picture if you need to.** If your living situation is stretching you financially, take a step back and consider whether changing where you live could make your life easier. What would it feel like to live well within your means, in a big enough home? Use the new year as an opportunity to do some bigger-picture thinking about what you want from your home.

For more on this, read Laura Gaskill's full article at: <http://fnhw.us/2g00apz>



## January Calendar

January 1: New Year's Day

January 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

National Soup Month



## January is a Good Time to Plant Bulbs

*Live for today, but plan for a showy spring. Get outdoors and plant bulbs!*

It's an easy and low cost way to add color to your yard this spring. Below is a general list of bulbs which can be planted now; to be sure, visit your local garden center for more information.

- Agapanthus
- Alstromeria (Peruvian Lily)
- Calla
- Canna
- Eucharis Lily
- Eucomis (Pineapple flower)
- Gloriosa (Climbing Lily)
- Hemerocallis (Day Lily)
- Lilium
- Lily of the Valley
- Nerine (Spider Lily)

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## January 16th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day

On Nov. 2, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a federal holiday. Americans commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on the third Monday in January.

*"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of convenience and comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."*

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



**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.

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## January is National Soup Month

### CHICKEN AND WILD RICE SOUP

#### Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, finely chopped
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and finely chopped
- 3 large celery stalks, finely chopped
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 12 cups (3 quarts) low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 1/2 cups wild rice blend
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breasts, diced
- 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken thighs, diced
- 1/4 cup coarsely chopped Italian parsley

#### Directions

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium-high heat. When it shimmers, add onion, carrots, celery, and garlic. Cook, stirring occasionally, until onion is softened, about 10 minutes.
2. Add broth and rice, season with salt, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer, covered, until rice is tender but still has some firmness, about 25 to 30 minutes.
3. Add chicken, and season with freshly ground black pepper. Simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat, add parsley, taste, and season with additional salt and pepper as needed.

[www.chowhound.com/recipes/chicken-and-wild-rice-soup-11481](http://www.chowhound.com/recipes/chicken-and-wild-rice-soup-11481)

