From Debbie Stang, Home Loan Officer

There's more to selling your home than putting up a "For Sale" sign in your yard. If you want to change that sign to "Sold," here are some tips from the National Association of REALTORS and other experts to make your house a standout.

Create curb appeal.

Springtime is approaching so it's the perfect time to enhance the exterior of your house and make sure your landscaping creates a good first impression. Keep the lawn cut and watered. Trim hedges and weeds and spruce up flower gardens. Make sure driveways and walkways are in good repair.

Fix any peeling paint on doors and windows. If your home needs it, give it a fresh coat of paint. Or apply a fresh coat of paint to the door. Don't forget to declutter the yard of bikes, toys or other such items. Bring splashes of color to your deck or patio with potted flowers or adding bright pillows to outdoor furniture.

Set up an inviting home.

Besides decluttering, deep cleaning and making small repairs inside, you'll need to stage your home so that potential buyers can see themselves living in there. You may need to rent an offsite storage unit to store unused items, such as furniture and seasonal items, plus other things as you start decluttering your home.

It may be hard, but you'll need to take the mindset that your home is now a house, a product to be sold. Start packing up the personal items, such as photos. Paint walls neutral colors. Remove some furniture to make rooms appear larger. Pack up the knickknacks and declutter the bookshelves. Organize cabinets and closets.

Some other creative ways to enhance your home include the use of mirrors to give an illusion of larger space. Tie ribbons around towels in your bathroom and set out a basket of scented soaps to give your bathroom a spa feel.