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The Key is RELATIONSHIPS

▶▶ publisher's note

Dear Charlotte Real Producers,

February is a month we celebrate relationships — typically, romantic ones. On the professional side, though, it's also a great time to reprioritize relationships for 2023.

In the real estate industry, as well as all the ancillary industries that serve it, relationships are the key to success. We depend on creating real and lasting connections with others; that is how we are able to sustain our businesses and propel them forward. As we move fully into what promises to be a fast-paced 2023, filled with, no doubt, lots of challenges, as well as lots of opportunities, I encourage you to take a look at all of your relationships — personal, with friends and family; professional, with co-workers, clients, vendors, mentors, mentees and coaches; with service people; and with neighborhoods and communities of all sorts — with an eye to enhancing and strengthening them. What and how can we do better this year than the year before?

Here, at Real Producers, one of the core elements of our mission is to connect this community — via introductions and opportunities to gather and meet one another in more intimate and casual settings to learn from each other and strengthen all of our business partnerships. Our *Real Estate Success*

& *Support* podcast is another way we're focusing on relationships in this community, connecting names with faces and businesses and sharing valuable information with each other. We've heard many different, creative, memorable ways Real Producers stay connected with and do special things for their sphere. This year should be one where we take our efforts up another notch!

Speaking of connecting, we are looking forward to the **Masquerade Sneaker Ball, coming up soon, on March 9th**. It should be a marvelous time! We hope to see you there!

With gratitude,



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How did you meet your significant other?



MIKE ABERNETHY
eXp Realty LLC Ballantyne

We actually met in high school and were friends. After college, we reconnected ... and the rest is history.



SUSAN JAKUBOWSKI
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

My first job was at a CPA firm. I started with my husband's sister. We worked a lot of overtime, and I was invited by this woman to vacation with her in North Carolina (went to her younger brother's engagement party). I met my husband, who was there with his girlfriend at the time. The older brother and girlfriend broke up a month later. We started hanging out and dating.



ANNETTE SEMPRIT
Helen Adams Realty

We met through mutual friends at a party. They had wanted to set us up for a year and never did follow through. We ended up meeting on our own at the party. It took us a year before we started dating, and we've now been married for 16 years.



DAVID DIGIOIA
DiGioia Realty

We met 26 years ago through a dating service (old school, before online dating).



KEN RIEL
Compass Southpark

I met him through friends.



BRETT CARRAWAY
Northstar Real Estate LLC

She used to work with us at the nightclub. She was one of our servers, and I was the operating partner.



ANNE STUART MITCHENER
Dickens Mitchener Residential Real Estate

I met my husband because we lived in the same condo in the uptown area, and I watched him walk to work every day. Later, we met on a blind date.



JOHN BOLOS
Keller Williams SouthPark

I met her online in 2010.



JILL MILLER
Helen Adams Realty

Fifteen at community tennis, working behind the desk. He came to get a towel, and we've been together for 29 years.



MATT CLAXTON
My Townhome LLC

My wife Kim and I both worked at Allen Tate, so I met her in the real estate office. I always like to joke that she wouldn't date me as long as we were working together.



BEN BOWEN
Premier Sotheby's International Realty
We met in college through friends. We're celebrating our 30th anniversary this month.



MICAELA BREWER
Trump International Realty
We met in high school during our freshmen year orientation, took a break, and got back together in college.



MIKE MORRELL
Keller Williams Connected
We are a blended family now! We both have kids, and she was my loan officer. That's how we met.



LIZ KOELLING
Matt Stone Real Estate
We met on the dating app, Hinge.



ALY CARLSON
Keller Williams Ballantyne Area
I used to manage a restaurant in Milford, Connecticut. I was out with girlfriends having fun one night. My husband had played in the NFL for the Redskins and was sitting at the bar. He was so large that I was scared to go over and talk to him. He had some friends come over and introduce themselves and coaxed me over. We actually ended up having a lot of mutual friends and decided to make it permanent a year later. Things moved fast, and we just celebrated our 30th wedding anniversary!



KRISTINA KHONA
Realty ONE Group Revolution
I was living in Manhattan and was invited to a camping trip with mutual friends. There were eight boys and eight girls, and that's where we met and soon after started dating. I thought nothing would come of it, but now we're married.



BRIAN MCCARRON
Keller Williams Elite
We met on OkCupid.



GABI CULPEPPER
Dickens Mitchener & Associates Inc.
I met my husband at a wedding, of all places. I was a bridesmaid, and he was a groomsman. We didn't actually become friends until the following year. But the rest is history.



STEVEN MORGAN
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate
We met on Eharmony.



KAREN PARSONS
RE/MAX Executive
I was a waitress, and he used to come into the bar. His name is Bernie, and when *The Weekend at Bernie's* came out, I teased him about it and still do.



BARBARA PEREIRA
Allen Tate SouthPark
I had just gone through a breakup and was staying in my house when my friends came to visit and forced me to get out of the house and go somewhere with them and some friends. While there, I met my now husband.



JONATHAN DIANNI
Compass
One of my pro golf friends' wife was throwing a surprise birthday party for him at 401 Yancy Brewery in Charlotte and invited some of her girlfriends and some of his friends. We met there, at the brewery, through mutual friends.



LIBBY GONYEA
Helen Adams Realty
We met in college at West Virginia University when we were very young. We've been together for 26 years.



NAOMI ABEL
NextHome Paramount
We met on Tinder and have been together for two and a half years.



ABIGAIL HINES MILLER
Ivester Jackson Distinctive Properties
We met through mutual friends and have been together for 10 years. We were married in 2015. He was in the Air Force in Florida, and we started talking through Instagram before DMs even existed.



AMY PETERSON
Allen Tate SouthPark
My husband and I grew up together and have known each other since kindergarten. We were in the same third-grade class. He was my boyfriend in fifth grade.

...



JAMES WEBB
Allen Tate SouthPark

We met on Tinder, before Bumble and Hinge. We then met at a barbecue restaurant in February 2016 and got married in October 2019.



NADIA MEREDITH
Cottingham Chalk

I had just moved here from Florida, and a friend of mine knew his business partner. We both got invited to a hockey game and met there. We are both business owners, so we are growing together. We've been together for 10 years but got married in the spring of 2018 and had a child.



BETHENNY BULLARD
eXp Realty

I met James, who was my high school best friend and was my husband's college best friend.



ELIZABETH MCNABB
Corcoran HM Properties

We met at a friend's pool party 14 to 15 years ago.



MELISSA O'BRIEN
Keller Williams Ballantyne Area
We met in 2005 at Florida State in real estate finance.



NADINE MORGAN
Allen Tate Realtors® Charlotte—Center City
I used to be a college basketball coach and met my wife through basketball. The first time we met was through a college visit. We now have a son who is 3.



BRANDY RHEINSCHMIDT
eXp Realty
We met through mutual friends when I moved to Fort Myers.



ELI MAGIDS
Fathom Realty
We met on a blind date 21 years ago and have been married for 20.



JULIE WILLIAMS
Southern Homes of the Carolinas
I met my husband at the gym.



ERICA VAUGHAN
Lake Homes Realty LLC
We met at Birkdale Village.



STEPHANIE CLINE
Belle Properties
We met at a baseball game.



NATALIE RUTHERFORD
Wilkinson ERA
I met my husband when we were 15. We were both from Charlotte. A friend I went to school with went to church with him, and we were chatting with him on AOL's AIM. I went to her youth group just to see him, and I pretended to visit his school. We were long-distance for three years and then got married.



JULIE NGUYEN
Yancey Realty LLC
I met my husband on Bumble. He was my very first Bumble.



LISA MCCROSSAN
Ivester Jackson Distinctive Properties
I was separated and had three kids, 4, 3, and 1, and I brought them to church. I stood up to sing, and a guy in front of me stood up, looked at me and smiled. He was good-looking, so I went to look for him at church again in January and didn't see him. I saw him again in April of that year, but we didn't get to talk. Fast forward to August, I was at a yoga studio working as a receptionist to get free yoga and was told about a guy who comes in at 6:30 in the morning who's good-looking. I was given his card and was introduced to him over the computer. We emailed a couple of times, and then he wanted to meet for lunch. I had no clue what he looked like, so he gave me a description that he'd be wearing a black oracle hat. When I came to lunch, the guy with the black hat was the guy from church.

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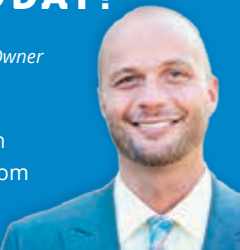
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“

I love meeting my clients at the closing table and giving them a big hug ... seeing how excited they are about the property and what they plan to do with it .

▶ partner spotlight

CHRISTINA MAUNEY BRAMHALL

Lending By Design with American Security Mortgage

By Dave Danielson | Photos by Don Elrod

As Senior Loan Officer Christina Mauney Bramhall points out, her clients at American Security Mortgage prepare to make their way across unfamiliar ground to make one of the biggest purchases of their lives. That's why it means so much to have a partner on their side who will hold their hand through the real estate transaction every step of the way.

"They rely on our guidance to get there. With our experience and expertise, we commit ourselves all the way," Christina explains.

"I love meeting my clients at the closing table and giving them a big hug ... seeing how excited they are about the property and what they plan to do with it. Being able to bring the transaction full circle for them is what it's all about," Christina smiles.

Getting an Early Start

Christina got an early start in the business, immediately after her collegiate career at the University of Georgia was complete.

"In one of the last few months of college, I was talking to one of my good friends about what we planned on doing after we graduated. I had a job lined up to be a recruiter in Atlanta that I told him I was not very excited about. That's when he said that I should interview with his stepmom, Erin Finnen, to be a loan officer," Christina says.

"I interviewed with her in Charlotte, where I'm originally from, and knew that's where I ultimately wanted to live. As I learned more about the job, I fell in love with the idea of being



Christina Mauney Bramhall with husband Tom, daughter Finley, and stepson Luke

a loan officer. Plus, I have always loved real estate. My mom was a REALTOR® when I was a child, so I grew up going to open houses and broker opens with her.”

Taking Steps Ahead

Christina worked with Erin as a junior loan officer for her first year in the business. After learning and growing during that time, she started her own journey as a loan officer, and in 2014, Christina and Erin started Team LBD.

“LBD stands for two things. First, it stands for ‘Little Black Dress.’ We wear black dresses to all our events and closings — we like to make mortgages fashionable and fun. Fashion is our true passion! Second, LBD also stands for ‘Lending by Design,’” Christina explains. “As part of our approach, we love finding the perfect mortgage product for each client. We listen to what their goals are and then find the perfect product for them.”



“ I am driven by my family. I love knowing that my job gives me the flexibility to never have to miss any of my children’s dance recitals, soccer games, or fishing tournaments. ”

Today, the team has a total of nine professionals, which includes five loan officers, two client care specialists, two processors, and their own personal underwriter.

“Working with my team and my company ... if it wasn’t for them, I would’ve given up on this career years ago. They are my family,” Christina emphasizes. “I started here right out of college, and I want to retire here. ASMC is a small, boutique mortgage firm where everyone has a voice. If I need an exception or advice on a loan, my CEO is just a phone call away. There is no red tape here.”

Supporting Success

In the process, Christina takes great pride in supporting the success of her Realtor partners, as she loves to help with broker opens and client appreciation events. The marketing side of being a loan officer is another aspect of her job that she thoroughly enjoys.



She is also appreciative of the flexibility that her role provides for her family.

“I am driven by my family,” she smiles. “I love knowing that my job gives me the flexibility to never have to miss any of my children’s dance recitals, soccer games, or fishing tournaments. I can work wherever there is the internet, so I am able to travel with my family and create lifelong memories without being tied to an office. I am essentially my own boss, which drives me to work even harder to help support my family.”

Family Fulfillment

Christina cherishes time with her husband, Tom, her stepson, Luke, and her daughter, Finley.

In their free time, Christina and Tom have a passion for traveling. “We are travel junkies. We don’t like to stay home too long,” she laughs. “We love to go to Wilmington, where we just recently purchased an Airbnb, and are fortunate enough to be able to go down there at least once a month. We love the ocean. My husband and I free dive and scuba dive every chance we get.”

Other favorite pursuits for Christina include hot yoga, Pilates, cooking, and spending time with her friends and family. She also has a cat, Cat-o-lac, whom she absolutely adores.

All-In Approach

Those who get to know and work with Christina appreciate how she applies her ‘all-in’ approach to helping those around her achieve their goals.

“I work my hardest to make sure my clients have the most unique, quality mortgage experience in the industry. My team takes pride in the hands-on, white-glove service we provide for every client. Our clients and Realtors know that they can rely on us to get things done — even on nights and weekends,” she notes.

“My Realtors partners have also become good friends. My job isn’t really a job; it’s my life. It’s all intertwined ... giving 100 percent for my Realtors partners and doing the right thing always.”

For more information on Lending By Design with American Security Mortgage, contact Christina Maaney Bramhall at 704-996-2637.



Christina Maaney Bramhall is a senior loan officer with Lending By Design with American Security Mortgage.

MIKE

ABERNETHY

agent spotlight
By Eli Pacheco | Photos by Don Elrod



Has the Carolinas Covered, from Mountains to Coast

Mike Abernethy points out that he's not a "rock star" agent.

"I'm not the salesman that gives the gimmicks and sales pitches. I give honest feedback and advice, regardless. That has cost me some clients over the years, but I will always stay true to why I got in this business."

"You don't have to be this outgoing, crazy agent making 1,000 phone calls and networking," Mike explains. "It might not come as fast as for those pounding the phones, but that's not how I wanted to start a business. I built it like an oak tree, slow and steady, so it would be a solid business with a solid foundation, built to last. I would love to see my girls take it over one day."

Mike's plan worked beautifully. Abernethy Properties has a strong foundation of past clients and referral-based business, with over 300 sold homes. The company averaged \$20 million in volume per year the past couple of years, with over 80 transactions.

"Everybody's in the business to make money and succeed," Mike says. "But with my background, I have knowledge that most don't. I can consult for new construction from my experience with a painting business and contractor work. I have been in the mortgage industry. I flip homes and have rental properties. I understand what it takes to make any kind of transaction successful, from beginning to end, and I pride myself on doing just that for each and every client."

The Path to Real Estate

"I've always liked real estate," Mike notes. "I've always had a passion for houses, building stuff, fixing stuff."

“

I understand what it takes to make any kind of transaction successful, from beginning to end, and I pride myself on doing just that for each and every client.

”

...





Mike Abernethy's wife, Sarah, works on his team at eXp Realty as the director of marketing.

You can help people with their most important asset. That's a fun, exciting experience that I take seriously."

Mike started in real estate and investment properties while running a painting company over 10 years ago. He was starting a family with his wife, Sarah, and decided to make real estate a full-time commitment. Soon, Sarah left her teaching job to focus on the family. She became the marketing director of Abernethy Properties, and together, they built a family and a business.

Mike started at Keller Williams, where he got a thorough education.

"It was fun and a positive experience to work with a corporation/REIT to buy a ton of investment properties while building a referral business," Mike says.

When eXp Realty came along, Mike made the switch. It was set up to work virtually, from home. And no one could have predicted that this



setup would have helped several years later when COVID hit.

"I was able to cut costs on renting an office space and had more time at home with the kids without the commute. My quality of life improved. It was a game changer for me. Since we were already set up for running a business from home, we just continued doing our thing during the lockdown," Mike says.

Mike has built a business with a lot of knowledge of many aspects of real estate. Friends, family, and clients see this and realize it's something special. A long-time friend from Florida recommended Mike to Nate Martin, and Mike helped the family find their dream home.

“

I want to continue growing, being successful, and providing for my family. We're very fortunate ... but I don't plan on slowing down now.

”



"We immediately clicked," Nate says. "Mike was genuine, professional, and an incredible listener who helped us find our true dream home. We're happy to now call him a friend."

Family Life

Sarah and Mike went to high school together and reconnected after college. They have two soccer players and a cheerleader among their three daughters, Riley (12), Reagan (10), and Caroline (9). They live on seven acres and enjoy their ATVS, pool, and three dogs. They also like to camp, ski, and hike.

"Any time we can do something as a family, we're in," Mike says. "They're getting older faster and we have been trying to make new adventures to create more memories."

Looking Ahead

Mike says he's not near where he wants to be, and never will be.

"It's how I'm built," he says. "I want to continue growing, being successful, and providing for my family. We're very fortunate, and I am thankful for that. But I don't plan on slowing down now."

"Abernethy Properties' logo represents the state's mountains, piedmont, and coastal regions. My vision was to work throughout the Carolinas. We sold a property on the coast and have helped in the mountains. 'We've Got the Carolinas Covered' is a true tagline for us now. That's no small feat, and I am so proud of what we have done. We now have a network of people with knowledge and a mindset like mine ... and I plan to continue to cover the Carolinas!"





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Liz Koelling has found her perfect job.

As a REALTOR® with the Matt Stone Team in Charlotte, Liz is dedicated and determined to be the best advocate for making real estate dreams come true for all her clients.

Since she first began in real estate just over two years ago, Liz has proven time and again that she is right where she is meant to be. Completing 54 transactions in 2021, totaling just over \$23 million in sales, and 56 transactions totaling over \$28 million in volume for 2022, she is helping set the standard for top-notch agents in Charlotte's real estate market.

Liz graduated from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in 2015 with a degree in business administration. She moved to Charlotte after college and worked for a few different companies doing outside sales, brand management, and marketing.

“ I love working with people and being able to integrate my work with my personal life.

In real estate, the sky's the limit. ”

Liz always knew she would invest in real estate someday, but she didn't think a career in real estate would become a reality until COVID-19 hit. Due to the pandemic, her job responsibilities began to decrease, leaving her with feelings of apathy and unfulfillment. When a friend encouraged her to contact Matt Stone about a career change, she knew it was time to make the leap.



Rising Star Liz Koelling is a REALTOR® with the Matt Stone Team.



Liz Koelling with her husband Lake and their basset hounds, Birdie and Huck

“I contacted Matt, sent him my resume, told him I didn’t know how my skill set overlapped with his business, but I’d love to learn more about real estate, and I’d work for free,” she says. Her first task was revamping some marketing materials and then enrolling in real estate classes.

After earning her license in June 2020, Liz thought she wanted to focus on property management, not wanting to constantly ask friends and family members for referrals. As fate would have it, she immediately sold two lake houses after passing her real estate test. “People supported me faster than I thought they would,” she recalls.

Liz was born and raised in Randleman, North Carolina, a small town outside of Greensboro. From her working-class family, she learned about the importance of hard work and honesty at a very young age. Her grandfather passed down the motto “Anything worth having is worth working for,” a phrase that motivated Liz when she began her real estate journey.

Liz says it is clear now that she was meant to be a REALTOR®, as the job fits her personality as well as her life goals.

“I love working with people and being able to integrate my work with my personal life,” Liz explains. “In real estate, the sky’s the limit. Having control over your success and income provides a kind of freedom that doesn’t usually come along with working for someone else.”

Liz provides a client-focused experience with every transaction, striving to clearly communicate every step with every client. She treats others the way she wants to be treated and aspires to be a trusted advisor to buyers and sellers for life.

“I get to help people navigate the biggest purchase of their lives, and I don’t take that responsibility lightly,” she notes. “For me, the focus has never been on making a sale — it’s on creating a client for life. Focusing on the process instead of the outcome is key.”

In 2019, Liz married her husband, Lake, in his native state of Alaska. They now reside in Charlotte with their two basset hounds, Huck and Birdie. Lake is a manager for a local cable television channel, and when not working, the couple likes to host parties in their home.

Winning a highest first-year production award in 2021 and a top producer award last year, Liz hopes to continue to grow her business, as well as her family, in the near future.

“I’ve never been happier. I can’t imagine doing anything else,” Liz concludes. “My only regret is not making the jump into real estate sooner.”



“

I’ve never been happier. I can’t imagine doing anything else. My only regret is not making the jump into real estate sooner.

“
LOVE
BROUGHT
ME TO
CHARLOTTE.”

KEN RIEL

BROKER | REALTOR® | DAD

falling in love in the queen city

“Love brought me to Charlotte,” Ken Riel says with a smile. “My partner, who is now my husband, is an equestrian and had clients here. I was living in New York City, and he was living in Florida, and we’d dated long-distance for some time. Charlotte is an awesome city, so we decided to make it home.”

Over the past 15 years, Ken has fallen in love with Charlotte’s southern charm and balanced way of life. He’s also picked up a new career and passion project — real estate sales.

New Beginnings

Ken spent the first 16 years of his adult life living in Manhattan, the majority of those working at Simon & Schuster. He built a successful sales career by directing Fortune 500 marketing programs and spearheading creative initiatives, like his multimillion-dollar deal with General Mills to include miniature versions of classic children’s picture books in cereal boxes so that kids everywhere could read *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* over a bowl of Cheerios.

Yet, as much as Ken enjoyed his work and his time living in the Big Apple, in 2008, he picked up his life and moved south to Charlotte. Upon landing in Charlotte, Ken continued working in publishing remotely, but soon, another career opportunity would present itself.

“We rented a house on Thomas Avenue in historic Plaza Midwood and became fast friends with our neighbors. One of our neighbors was the owner of the boutique firm Nestlewood Realty,” Ken reflects. “He kept nudging me to get my license and join him. I always had a strong passion for houses and the process of creating a home, and I finally decided to just do it.”

Ken got his license in 2012, and a decade later, he’s thriving in real estate. The passion for service he displayed while in publishing transitioned perfectly to real estate, allowing him to continue making a positive impact in the world. He finds the opportunity to help people at a pivotal time in their life to be an honor, whether it be a time of growth, downsizing, marriage, or divorce.

“My job isn’t to sell anybody on buying or selling a home but to help them make a decision that’s best for them,” Ken explains. “People like working with



me because I put their needs at the forefront. I was given a plaque that says, ‘REALTOR®: a full-time psychologist who shows houses every now and then.’ You have to laugh because my undergrad degree is in psychology, and it comes into play — working with people and hearing what they may not be saying and helping them figure out how to get to where they want and need to be.”

Ken has been a solo agent since day one, and he joined Compass in 2021. That same year, he closed 40 transactions for \$25 million; in 2022, he closed 35 transactions for nearly \$30 million.

It’s All About Family

Ken moved to Charlotte to be with his husband, and his family continues to be his primary driving force. He now has two children, 12-year-old twins, Charlie and Olive. He and his husband, Steve, enjoy going to the beach and the mountains, as well as spending time cooking with family and friends.

“My big why is my family and my clients. They drive me to be better every day, to listen more, to work harder, and to do the right thing,” Ken says proudly.



Top performer Ken Riel is a solo agent with Compass.



Ken is excited about watching his children grow into adults or, as he says, “watching them unfold and supporting them in who they want to be.” Professionally, Ken hopes to continue selling real estate at his current pace, fine-tuning his professional relationships, and growing the REALTORS® Read program. He is driven toward professional excellence and success but also realizes the importance of having fun too.

“Don’t forget to have fun,” Ken reminds us. “This is a crazy ride, a phenomenal journey we get to take. And there are some amazing characters along the way. Just remember humor; it’s a great tool. I love to laugh.”



Ken Riel (center right) with husband Steve (left) and their twins, Charlie and Olive

“MY BIG WHY IS MY FAMILY AND MY CLIENTS. THEY DRIVE ME TO BE BETTER EVERY DAY, TO LISTEN MORE, TO WORK HARDER, AND TO DO THE RIGHT THING.”



GIVING BACK

Giving back to the community is a central part of Ken’s business, as well as his larger purpose in life. He’s started an organization called REALTORS® Read, which encourages literacy by donating books to local kindergarten students in Title 1 schools. He partners with First Book, a literacy nonprofit and one of his former publishing clients.

“I love what I do. I don’t see myself ever going into retirement. I love where I am, the pace, the volume. I just want to continue to build relationships and serve people with excellence. One of my biggest dreams in all of this is to, at some point, expand the REALTORS® Read program into a national program.”

A Head Start on Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning doesn't have to wait until spring!

By Shauna Osborne

Touch up paint

Tired of looking at those marks and smudges on the walls, cabinets, doors and trim? Tackle them with a cleaning eraser first to assess what truly needs a touch-up, then address the remaining problem areas with leftover paint and a small, thin paintbrush for greater precision.

Clean out dryer vent

A clogged dryer vent can, at best, cause your dryer to run inefficiently and increase your energy bill and, at worst, cause a fire. To clear any lingering lint and/or nesting pests from your cozy vent, remove the vent and clean the duct that connects the back of the dryer to the outside using a wet/dry vac or brush tool.

Refresh mattresses

Most of us change our sheets frequently, but we shouldn't neglect our trusty mattress, which can make all the difference in sleep quality. Start by vacuuming the box springs and the top and bottom of the mattress. Then, rotate or flip, depending on whether it's a one- (rotate) or two-sided mattress (flip to prevent sagging).

Revive fridge

Refrigerator condenser coils are located on the back or bottom of your appliance. Save energy and extend the life of your fridge by using a vacuum to clean the coils as well as underneath and behind the fridge itself.

In February, the weather outside is still frightful — possibly the harshest of the season — but the glittering hope of spring is just around the corner. If you're feeling a little stir-crazy, why not tackle these often-neglected chores now and start sprucing up your home for sunny times ahead?



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