

COUNTY LINES

Your guide to unique places, interesting events, fine dining, great shopping and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware

From the Experts ...

Mercedes Thomas

**BE PREPARED FOR THIS YEAR'S
SPRING REAL ESTATE MARKET!**

Spring is fast approaching, and along with warmer weather, brilliant daffodils and longer days is, of course, the lively spring real estate market.

Though recent years have seen an increase in home buyers and sellers year-round, spring remains the busiest season. Many families hope to close on their new home between busy school years—and with time to spare for a stress-free family vacation.

So, if you're considering buying or selling a home this spring, it's important to hire the right realtor who can help you through the entire process—from identifying your wish list to sealing the deal.

To get things started, we've asked some area realtors for tips for sellers, buyers and lovers of historic properties. Here's what they have to say.

Mark Willcox of Country Properties

The type of properties I work with are often rural historic properties—ones embodying a sense of history. These distinctive properties have a certain allure to buyers who can afford them and are passionate about protecting them.

With the press of new construction, historic properties are much less available. I get excited to work with buyers enthusiastic about preserving and creating a family homestead they can pass down to their heirs to treasure.

There are certain features of historic properties that make them more desirable—pointed fieldstone, large corner stones, porches, wavy or bubble glass, random width hardwood floors, handsome fireplaces, high ceilings, original woodwork and cabinetry.

Buyers interested in historic properties should hire a realtor knowledgeable about those properties, and recruit experienced architects who can educate and advise them through the inevitable process of restoring the property while keeping it authentic. Your realtor can help you find the right experts to talk to.



FINE HOME ISSUE