

# MARNI

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who couldn't keep up with their home's necessary maintenance, and now it needs so much work they will have a hard time selling it for anywhere near what they could if they had maintained it. "We didn't want that to be us," she said.

### Try before you buy

I've heard this advice from many trying to "home in" on where they want to retire. The Seymours spent the last two summers in Milwaukee, so they know the area, and, more important, know they'd like to live there.

### Get a pre-inspection

To head off any issues that could surface during a buyer's home inspection, Katie and Thad had their home inspected before they listed it. (Another smart move.) That's when they learned they had to replumb their home, because its water pipes were made of polybutylene, a resin material common in homes built in the '80s and early '90s. In 1995, builders stopped installing polybutylene pipes, because some failed and insurers stopped insuring

homes that had them. "If a buyer can't get insurance, that would be a deal breaker," Thad said. "Better we found out beforehand."

### Focus on the upside

Clearing out a home you've lived in for years, let alone decades, and getting it ready to sell is overwhelming. The task is often so daunting many hit the default button and stay put. Not the Seymours: "We're looking forward to spending less time on a home, yard, and pool, and to spending carefree summers in Wisconsin and winters in Florida."

### Don't listen to the kids

"The kids wanted us to keep the house," Katie said. "Don't ever sell it," they said. "We want to bring the grandchildren back." Easy for them to say. They don't have to maintain it.

Fortunately, parents don't always do what their kids want them to do. Sometimes they do what's best.

Marni Jameson is the author of six home and lifestyle books, including "What to Do With Everything You Own to Leave the Legacy You Want," "Downsizing the Family Home — What to Save, What to Let Go," and "Downsizing the Blended Home — When Two Households Become One." She can be contacted at [www.marnijameson.com](http://www.marnijameson.com).

# Perennial plants make good investment

Though plants might not seem like the first thing individuals think of when they ponder long-term investments, perennials can be just that.

The home and garden experts at HGTV note that some perennials can live for a very long time.

For example, according to HGTV, the colorful flowering plant peony, despite a blooming season that usually lasts just seven to 10 days, has been known to survive

for 70 to 100 years.

Hostas are another popular perennial because they require little maintenance, and that extra free time can add up over the course of the hosta's life, which can exceed 15 years.

Long-living perennials are not necessarily unusual, but gardeners should know that many perennials, and particularly those characterized as "short-lived," tend to live around three years

Check out the Gazette-Mail Real Estate guide for Marni Jameson, House of the Week and more every Sunday.

HD-489510

# Open HOUSES

Open Houses Sunday, February 19, 2023



1109 Skytop Cir, Charleston  
\$314,900  
2:00-4:00 PM

Spacious home on a cul-de-sac street. Four bedrooms, potential for a fifth on the lower level. 3.5 baths. Great decking overlooking fire pit and patio. Granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Tons of storage. This one won't last long, come see it today!

DIRECTIONS: Corridor G to light at Ashton Place, go up hill on Emerald Road, Right on Shamrock, Left on Londonderry, Left on Skytop Circle, home on right in cul-de-sac.

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