



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

see an unusual flame color. These symptoms can indicate gas leaks, ventilation problems, or component failures that pose serious safety risks.

Contact a professional immediately if you notice water stains around your fireplace, which suggest chimney leaks that can cause structural damage. Similarly, if you see white staining on the exterior chimney (called efflorescence), this indicates moisture problems that need expert evaluation.

Crumbling mortar, tilting chimney structures, or damaged flue liners all require professional repair. Never attempt to use a fireplace with a compromised flue liner, as this can allow deadly carbon monoxide into your home.

## Safety Practices Throughout the Season

Beyond annual maintenance, adopt safe burning practices. For wood fireplaces, burn only seasoned hardwood that has dried for at least six months. Wet or green wood produces more creosote and less heat. Never burn treated wood, cardboard, trash, or Christmas trees, as these can release

toxic chemicals or cause dangerous flare-ups.

Keep a fire extinguisher nearby and install carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries annually.

For both wood and gas fireplaces, maintain proper clearance around the hearth. Keep furniture, curtains, and decorations at least three feet away from the opening. Never leave a fire unattended, and ensure fires are completely extinguished before going to bed.

## Good Maintenance Means More Enjoyable Times by the Fire

Regular fireplace maintenance protects your home, your family, and your investment. While many tasks are manageable for homeowners, professional inspections remain essential. The small cost of annual maintenance far outweighs the potential expense—and danger—of chimney fires, gas leaks, or carbon monoxide poisoning. With proper care, your fireplace will provide years of warmth, ambiance, and comfort.

*\*This article was created with some help from AI, but edited, reviewed, and fact-checked by a real person.*

# IN THE Spotlight

## BUFFALO



Soon to be completed, this will be the last home available in Marrano's Colvin Estates, so don't miss out! Three spacious bedrooms, including an expanded Primary Suite with large WIC and spa-like tiled shower. Loaded with desirable features, such as a 9' ceilings, a convenient Mud Room off the attached 2 car Garage, 2nd floor Laundry, cozy gas fireplace, and an open Kitchen/Family Room design that is perfect for entertaining! Call to schedule a tour! Marrano. **809-8678**

## AMHERST



New Patio Home community in Amherst. Harding Road features just 8 exclusive homesites in a prime, convenient location. Choose from ranch plans w/optional lofts or 2-story layouts, all the modern features you want. Deep lots, easy access to everything you need. Ask about Marrano's 3.9% APR mortgage buydown for 1st 10 years. Save thousands! Marrano. **809-8674**

## WILLIAMSVILLE



This is your chance to own a luxury townhome at Stonham Place for an incredible price of \$549,900 - drastically reduced for quick sale. Loaded w/upscale amenities & packed w/everything you could want in a brand-new townhome. Limited number available-don't wait! Choose from 1st-flr primary suite layout or 3 bdrms on 2nd-flr. Marrano. Call for information. **809-8674**

## LEWISTON NEW COMMUNITY



ESSEX HOMES: Essex Ridge Estates offers convenient HOA services & reduced property taxes (Condo Status). Beautiful tree-lined homesites with 10 different layouts to choose from. Visit our incredible model home at 5194 Bridle Path Lane. EssexHomesWNY.com



RaeAnn Plouffe  
716-725-7577  
Salesperson

## LANCASTER



Close-out Special. Last chance to own a brand-new townhome in Marrano's Lancaster community, Juniper Townhomes. Featuring 1st-floor Primary suite w/attached bath. Conv open Kitchen/Family Rm layout with gas fireplace (end unit). \$427,900. Marrano. Call for info. **809-8678**

## CHEEKTOWAGA/LANCASTER



It's Back for a Limited Time - \$399,900. Move-in-Ready units available. Choose from primary suite on 1st flr or expanded living space w/3 bdrms on 2nd flr. All exterior work done by HOA. Big tax savings w/condo status. Marrano. Call for information. **809-8686**

## LANCASTER WATER VIEWS



ESSEX HOMES: Essex Lake Estates offers 9 multi-acre lots with unbelievably beautiful panoramic pond and tree-lined views! Choose from 15 customizable home plans starting in the \$700k's. Visit our offsite model home at 5 Northfield Lane in Lancaster. EssexHomesWNY.com



Robert Bingel  
716-383-0004  
Salesperson

## WILLIAMSVILLE NEW LISTING



190 & 196 Mill St. 4 beds 3 full baths. Beautifully updated historic home w/ garage apartment on a rare double lot in the heart of the Village of Williamsville. Income and Investment opportunity. Thoughtful improvements blend seamlessly with original character. \$699,900



Renee Day  
716-984-3040  
Lic. R.E.  
Salesperson