



**BETH BROCKETTE** | **KATIE RECK**

319-551-8692 | 319-327-7992  
BrocketteHomes@RuhlHomes.com  
BrocketteHomes.com

Licensed to Sell Real Estate in Iowa



Ruhl&Ruhl REALTORS | Cedar Rapids, IA



***No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it.***

**~Hal Borland**



Most people do not move just because the market changes. In many cases, a move happens because something in life changes first. As people move through different stages of life, their housing needs often change along the way.

A growing family is one of the most common reasons people begin thinking about a new home. What once felt like plenty of space can start to feel a little tight when children arrive or when kids get older and need their own rooms. Many families begin looking for homes with more bedrooms, a larger yard, or a neighborhood that better fits their day-to-day routines.

Later on, the opposite can happen. Once children move out, some homeowners realize they no longer need as much space as they once did. Maintaining a larger home can start to feel like more work than necessary. Downsizing to a smaller home, a condo, or a property with less maintenance becomes an attractive option for many people.

Career changes can also influence housing decisions. A new job, a relocation opportunity, or even the shift toward remote work can change what someone needs from their home. Some people begin looking for shorter commutes, while others start prioritizing space for a home office.

Other life events can also lead people to reconsider their living situation. Marriage, divorce, or caring for aging parents can all bring changes in finances, household size, and daily routines. When those things shift, it often makes sense to reevaluate where and how you want to live.

Financial progress can play a role as well. Over time, homeowners may build equity in their property. That equity can open the door to moving into a larger home, relocating to a different area, or sometimes purchasing an investment property.

In the end, real estate decisions are rarely just about the house itself. They are usually connected to the changes happening in someone's life.

If you ever reach a point where your home no longer fits your lifestyle the way it once did, it might simply mean life is moving in a new direction. When that time comes, having a trusted real estate professional to help guide the process can make things much easier.

[LJ Hooker](#)

## **Sticky BBQ Chicken Meatballs with Broccoli Slaw.**



### **Ingredients**

#### **Sticky BBQ Chicken Meatballs**

- 1 pound ground chicken
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced, plus more for serving
- 1/3 cup seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- kosher salt and pepper
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 cup BBQ sauce
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup water
- rice, for serving

#### **Broccoli Slaw**

- 1 (12 ounce) bag broccoli slaw
- 1/4 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1/4 cup mayo
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- kosher salt and pepper

### **Instructions**

#### **Sticky BBQ Chicken Meatballs**

1. In a bowl, combine the chicken with the egg, garlic, onions, breadcrumbs, smoked paprika and a big pinch of salt and pepper. Mix until just combined and form the mixture into small meatballs.
2. Heat the olive oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add the meatballs in a single layer and brown on all sides. Once browned, transfer the meatballs to a plate.
3. In the same skillet, add in the BBQ sauce, honey and water. Whisk it together. Bring the mixture to a simmer. Cook for 1 minute. Add the meatballs back in and cook for a few minutes as the sauce thickens. You want the internal temperature of the meatballs to reach 165 degrees F before serving. Sprinkle with more green onions.

## Broccoli Slaw

1. Place the broccoli slaw in a bowl.
2. In a smaller measuring cup or bowl, whisk together the yogurt, mayo, honey and apple cider vinegar with a big pinch of salt and pepper. Pour over the broccoli slaw and serve.

[How Sweet Eats](#)



You've probably heard the phrase your whole life. Every time it rains in April, someone eventually says it. "April showers bring May flowers." It is one of those sayings that seems to show up every spring, especially after a few gray and rainy days.

Have you ever wondered where it actually came from?

The phrase actually dates back hundreds of years. In 1557, an English poet named Thomas Tusser wrote the line "Sweet April showers do spring May flowers" in a collection of poems about farming and the seasons. At the time, people relied heavily on agriculture, so seasonal weather patterns were closely observed. Over time, the line was shortened and eventually turned into the saying we still use today.

There is also some real science behind the idea. As winter fades and temperatures begin to rise, plants start waking up from their dormant winter state. Spring rain helps provide the moisture plants need to grow, especially after the colder, drier months of winter. When that rainfall combines with longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures, it creates the perfect conditions for new growth.

Of course, the saying does not apply the same everywhere. Different regions experience different weather patterns, and April is not always the rainiest month, depending on where you live. In some areas, flowers may begin blooming earlier, while in others the peak bloom might happen later in the spring.

Still, the message behind the phrase holds up. Spring is a season of renewal. Trees begin to fill in again, yards turn green, and neighborhoods start to feel a little more alive after the winter months.

It is also the time of year when many people start paying closer attention to their homes. Warmer weather makes it easier to spend time outside, freshen up landscaping, and enjoy outdoor spaces again. For some homeowners, it even sparks the idea of moving or finding a home that better fits their current lifestyle.

Whether you are planting flowers, refreshing your yard, or simply enjoying the change of seasons, spring is a great reminder of how much our home matters. And if real estate questions ever come up, we're always here as a resource.

[Weather Champs](#)



If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully.

