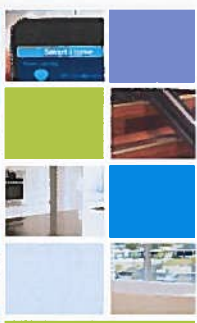


Christy's SMART MOVE FOR HOMEOWNERS



Working Hard to Keep You Informed

No. 1 2016



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Dear Valued Client,

Welcome to my first edition of "Smart Move For Homeowners".

As a professional in the real estate field, I am always striving to upgrade the level of service I provide to my clients. This monthly update will feature articles that will help you with your real estate decisions. It will also touch on general household issues that will help you maintain the value of your property and make your home a safer place to live.

If you, your family or friends have a real estate question that needs to be answered, or have a house-related issue that requires professional advice, I would be happy to help.

Whether you want some reliable, up-to-date information on the residential market, or you're just curious about how your home might stack up against neighborhood listings, remember I'm just a call away.

Regards,

Christy

*think,
act... live!*

"What you do today can improve all your tomorrows."

Ralph Marston

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

C. S. Lewis

"A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others."

Ayn Rand

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Christy Seabourne's
SMART MOVE HOMEOWNERS

New Year's Trivia

It's considered good luck to eat black eyed peas because it is thought they bring prosperity. But if you want to have a happy new year, don't eat lobster or chicken. Lobsters can move backward and chickens can scratch in reverse, so it is thought these foods could bring a reversal of fortune.

Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. What date in 2016 will that be?

Call, text or email me with your answer to be entered into the monthly drawing to win a \$50 gift card.

*My job as your REALTOR®
is to help you with
all your needs –
before, during and
after the sale.*

If you want market statistics for your area, please call.

Adapting Homes for the Mobility Impaired

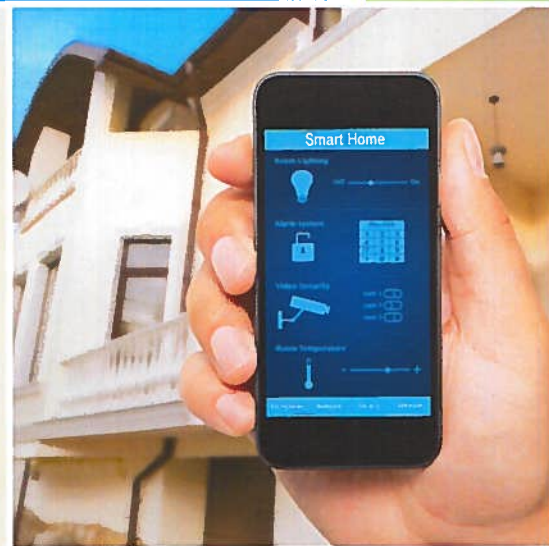


Thanks to modern lightweight walkers and motorized wheelchairs and carts, many people with mobility difficulties have become quite independent. However, to take advantage of this enhanced mobility, adjustments may be required within your home. These might include wider doorways, a stairway chair lift, and a walk-in shower. If you have a main floor bathroom, also consider installing grab bars and a wall-hung sink to accommodate not only you, but also guests with mobility difficulties. For a perfect welcoming gesture, install a fixed or folding ramp at your main or secondary entranceway.

A Vacation Away Requires Preparation at Home

Once you've made plans for an extended vacation, you'll need to make plans to help ensure your home and valuables are looked after in your absence. Here are some ideas to consider:

1. Upgrade your home security system to enable live alerts to your cell phone or tablet.
2. Update your smartphone with contacts, including local police, your insurance agent, and a 24-hour home repair service in case of a home break-in or severe weather damage.
3. Keep in touch with a trusted neighbor or relative who is available on a regular basis to check up on your house or condo, water your plants, etc.



4. Unplug appliances and non-essential utilities, and adjust your thermostat a few degrees to avoid unnecessary fees.
5. Suspend subscriptions, deliveries and mail, and ensure bills due in your absence are paid in advance.

How to Stop Moisture Damage in Your Bathroom

Damp bathrooms can cause mold and mildew to grow, which can trigger severe allergies. Fortunately, you can control the dampness by following a few simple steps. First, to protect your bathroom from accumulating condensation, make sure you have an effective exhaust fan that is wired independently of any light switches. Modern units are actually able to detect moisture in the air, and can be programmed to automatically remove it. Another way to control dampness is to ensure your toilet tanks don't run after flushing and have insulated linings to prevent sweating. You can also install insulating wrap on supply



pipes. Follow a simple routine of wiping down surfaces (including shower walls) after use as this can be an effective way to prevent saturating the air with moisture. Finally, when renovating, be sure to use water-resistant insulation and wallboard.

Choosing between Natural and Manufactured Stone Countertops

If you're considering a new countertop, you probably already know that some of the most popular surfaces are natural stone. However, you may not be aware that new manufactured surfaces, enhanced by mixing granular stone with unique compounds, are gaining attention due to their appearance and performance.

Natural surfaces such as granite, marble, limestone and sandstone are desirable because of their enduring beauty. Once they are polished, treated to repel stains, and made non-porous, you can easily wipe away common kitchen bacteria. Similar natural surfaces such as soapstone, slate or glazed lava are very durable and require less treatment but are not available in a wide range of color palettes.

On the other hand, manufactured composites such as engineered stone (generally referred to as quartz, and known



by various brand names) offer a wide range of colors and tones to fulfill most kitchen designer dreams. Made to exacting formulations, these easy-to-clean surfaces are durable and require no maintenance. When it comes to countertops, the choices seem to keep getting better.