

Christy's SMART MOVE FOR HOMEOWNERS

Working Hard to Keep You Informed

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Curiosity is a Good Thing!

Have you ever seen a really nice car and wondered how much it costs? It's natural to be curious. After all, you might want a car like that someday, so understanding its price range is information that is good to have.

Why am I bringing this up?

Well, as we get closer to spring, the real estate market is likely to heat up. That means you're probably going to see more "For Sale" signs in your neighborhood — as well as in other neighborhoods, that you may want to consider for the future.

If you drive by one of those signs and are curious about the list price, feel free to give me a call. I can provide you with that information, as well as other property details.

Even if you have no plans to make a move anytime soon, satisfying your curiosity about what's happening in the local real estate scene will provide you with information that is good to have.

All the best!

Christy

*think,
act... live!*

"Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort."
Franklin D. Roosevelt

"Each moment in time we have it all, even when we think we don't."
Melody Beattie

"When I let go of what I am, I become what I might be."
Lao Tzu

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March Trivia

It used to be that March was the beginning of the year. At that time there were only ten months in the calendar, March through December. Given that, September through December make more sense linguistically when looking at their Latin roots. So, when did January 1 become the first day of the New Year?

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

Check out past winners and get the answers to previous trivia questions on my website, www.buyandsellincolorado.com

*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.

Plan Ahead Before Installing Wood Floors



If you need to replace sections of damaged wood flooring, or are considering a new hardwood floor, you should take appropriate precautions before installation. Wood is a natural product that is susceptible to swelling or shrinking due to fluctuations in humidity. So, whether you're repairing a small patch, or installing an entire floor, it's advisable to avoid laying the new pieces on the same day they arrive in your home. Instead, let them acclimate to your room's environment. If you are attempting to match existing flooring with new planks, the wood will need to absorb the room's humidity so that the new pieces are less likely to change shape and create visible gaps or bunching after installation. With a bit of patience, you'll have well aligned, gap-free, hardwood flooring.

Recognize Old Plumbing that Needs Repair or Replacement

If your house or condo is of a certain age, you may need to become more cognizant of the condition of your plumbing system in order to ensure that it will serve your needs well into the future. A quick inspection could reveal some telltale signs of deterioration, and indicate where improvements should be considered. The most obvious locations to inspect are under sinks and vanities, and around your hot water tank. Look for excessive sweating, dripping or corrosion, especially around joints. Examine neighboring areas such as floors and walls for signs of mold or mildew.



Also, check for colored pipes. Typically red or blue, but sometimes orange, grey or black, colored pipes could indicate an outdated plastic and/or aluminum plumbing system that may be susceptible to leaking or bursting without notice. If you suspect that this piping is part of your system, check with a plumber to determine replacement options.

Household Cleaning Tips

1. To clean bathroom tiles and grout naturally, try a solution of 1/2 cup of baking soda in 2 gallons (approx. 8 liters) of warm water. Apply with a clean rag or soft toothbrush.
2. To scrub out or blot a stain on a cushion with a slip-cover, put a sheet of plastic between the cushion and the fabric, to prevent the stain from becoming absorbed by the cushion.
3. Most shower curtains are machine-washable. Wash yours with some water, detergent and a bit of bleach (for disinfecting), plus add a few towels for abrasion.
4. To clean your dishwasher, consult your dishwasher manual for cleaning instructions, as the methodology may



differ based on the interior finish of your machine. Most recommend running the machine with either vinegar, a light bleach-in-water solution, or a brand-name cleaner recommended by the manufacturer.

Changes Coming for Baby Boomers

The eldest members of the baby boom generation were born shortly after World War II and are now approaching their 70's. Generally healthier and more financially stable than previous generations, Baby Boomers have the benefits of an expanding range of housing and lifestyle choices available for their retirement years. Here are some options:

1. **Renovate:** Statistics say that more retirees want to stay in the family home as long as possible. As a result, major upgrades may be necessary to accommodate changing needs. These renovations could range from adding bathroom grab bars and replacing doorknobs with levers, to providing wheelchair access and installing stair lifts.
2. **Resize:** A new home could be in order – sometimes smaller to eliminate stairs, reduce maintenance and increase savings; sometimes larger to accommodate adult children and grandchildren.
3. **Change locations:** A suburban neighborhood may no longer be suited to many seniors' needs. They may consider a location that requires less driving and easier access to doctors, shopping and entertainment.
4. **Expand:** For those financially and physically capable of taking advantage of market opportunities, a secondary purchase such as a cottage or other recreational home and/or income producing property could be a consideration.

