

OUR STRATEGY TO GETTING YOUR HOME

SOLD



SELLING YOUR HOME

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD

We understand that selling a home in today's market can be challenging. While the market can fluctuate daily, hundreds of homes are sold each week in our area.

Thank you for choosing to put your trust in me for the process of buying and/or selling your home. Every member of my team is committed to ensuring that ALL of your real estate needs are not just met, but exceeded! I've created this book for your convenience and we hope that it will be a valuable resource. While the entire process is outlined for you here, please know that I will be staying in constant contact with you throughout the process. Your experience will be unique and I will adjust our service according to your wants and needs. My focus is on your complete satisfaction.

CONTACT US

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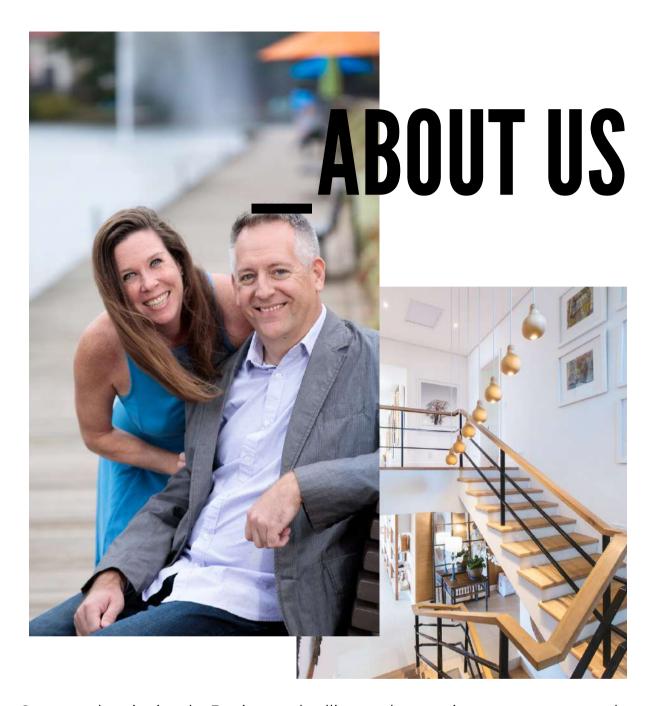
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Our mandate is simple. Buying and selling real estate is a means to an end goal. It's not about a house, it's about living your best life.

We live, work, and play in the Greater Reston area and help our clients buy and sell homes across Northern Virginia. We're obsessed with personalized service, digital marketing, and delivering outstanding experiences for our home buyers and sellers.

At Greater Reston Living, our team of talented agents goes beyond bedrooms and bathrooms to understand your goals for where and how you would like to live. We work relentlessly to ensure you achieve those goals. This is not a business transaction for us, it is your life, and we never forget that.



OUR COMMITMENT

01 THE TRUTH

I promise to tell you the truth about your property.

02 RESPECT

I promise to respect your confidence.

03 ADVICE

I promise to give you good advice.

04 TRANSPARENCY

I promise that you will understand what you're signing.

05 FOLLOW UP

I promise to follow through and follow up.

4 STAGES OF HOME SELLING

PRELISTING

- schedule an appointment
- meet with Staging Consultant
- discuss the best strategy for selling
- property evaluation
- complete market analysis
- establish sales price
- executed listing agreement

PREP FOR MARKET

- marketing campaign started
- professional photography taken
- signs installed
- submitted to MLS
- showing times selected
- property brochure delivered
- direct mail campaign launched
- e-mail campaigns started
- open house scheduled

ACTIVE ON MARKET

- showings started
- curb appeal kept up
- house is kept ready to show
- showing feedback shared
- open House held
- neighborhood door knocked

OFFER & CLOSING

- offer(s) received
- offer(s) negotiated
- offer accepted
- back-up offer(s) accepted
- inspections & disclosures completed
- appraisal completed
- contingencies removed
- property closes
- refer friends to us!

STAGE ONE: PRELISTING



PRICING TO SELL FAST & FOR MORE MONEY

In any market, pricing your home properly is imperative. Pricing your home is a strategy to extract the greatest possible value from your home. That's why every home we list is guided by pricing advice from a certified Pricing Strategy Advisor (only 14 of us are in the area).

Even in a hot seller's market, there are still homes that sit, waiting for an offer for months and months. This time spent on MLS means that you're still making your mortgage payments and not getting equity out of your home.

Even worse is what buyers and buyer agents think about homes stale homes that have been on the market for too long. Remember how important first impressions are? The first impression a buyer gets about a home that has been on the market longer than average is this:

"SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG WITH THAT HOME."

That thought will scare away many buyers, and it will prompt the ones who remain interested to attempt to lowball you.

But why are those homes still on the market in the first place? It's because they are often priced "out of the market." So let's not chase the market down and get your home priced right from the start.





OUR

EIGHT STEPS

TO GETTING YOUR HOME SOLD

MARKET PREPARATION

STAGING

PHOTOGRAPHY

ONLINE MARKETING BLAST

SOCIAL MEDIA

OPEN HOUSES

PRINT MARKETING

ACTIVE PHONE WORK

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Just as first impressions are important when meeting people, they can also make or break a home sale. When potential buyers walk into your house, they will start to evaluate everything thev see. Their impression will ultimately determine how much they're willing to offer on the if property...or even thev'll be interested in buying it at all.

CLEANLINESS

You wouldn't want your mother to come over when your house was dirty, would you? And you're not even trying to get her to shell out thousands of dollars for the place!

Buyers are easily distracted, and they will tend to focus on the negatives instead of the positives of each home they tour. Each dish left in the sink or dust bunny in the corner is going to detract from the perceived value of your home, which means a lower offer amount and more time on the market for you.

PREPARING YOUR HOME

REPAIRS

There are several reasons to complete repairs on your home before you put it on the market. Ultimately, buyers will pay more for a home to avoid the work of fixing it, and they will pay faster.

Moreover, any money you invest into repairs before you list — when you have time to price-shop and to use a little bit of elbow grease — will be far less than the quote from the home inspector or the concessions the buyers will want.

The good news is that most repairs are merely cosmetic and relatively inexpensive. Think of the things on your to-do list: that leaky faucet and the cracked bathroom tile were bothering you when you lived in the house, and they're going to bother the new owners too.

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PREPARING YOUR HOME

We advise on decluttering, making repairs/alterations that will help you gain financially. As well as show the home in its best possible form. Remember... First Impressions Last a Lifetime Spacious: Rooms should appear spacious. Store any unnecessary pieces of furniture to allow for easy movement around the room and throughout the house.

INTERIOR

WASH ALL WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

REMOVE ALL PET-RELATED ITEMS AND FOOD

TAKE PERSONAL ITEMS
OFF THE WALLS

ALL LAUNDRY IS EITHER PUT AWAY OR HIDDEN

TAKE ALL TRASH OUT

MOVE ALL SENSITIVE PAPERWORK AND MEDICATION TO A SECURE AREA

EXTERIOR:

WASH ALL WINDOWS AND CLEAN SCREENS

TOUCH UP PAINT

MOVE ANY EXTRA
VEHICLES FROM THE
DRIVEWAY

DISPLAY SEASONAL FLOWERS AND LANDSCAPING

WEED ANY FLOWER BEDS

CLEAN FRONT PORCH AND SECURE ANY LOOSE HANDRAILS

STAGING YOUR HOME

Staging makes your house look and feel like a model home. It's the process of simplifying, rearranging furniture, adding decorative elements, and depersonalizing a home to maximize its appeal to buyers. The whole point of staging your house is to make it easy for prospective home buyers to envision themselves living in your home. To be successful, there are a few things you need to understand about what characteristics of a house are universally appealing to homebuyers.

83%

OF BUYERS' AGENTS SAID STAGING A HOME MADE IT EASIER FOR A BUYER TO VISUALIZE THE PROPERTY AS A FUTURE HOME. **67**%

OF TOP AGENTS SAY THAT HOME STAGING HELPS A SELLER FETCH MORE MONEY FOR THEIR HOUSE AT RESALE. 40%

OF BUYERS' AGENTS
CITED THAT HOME
STAGING HAD AN
EFFECT ON MOST
BUYERS' VIEW OF THE
HOME.

PROS OF STAGING

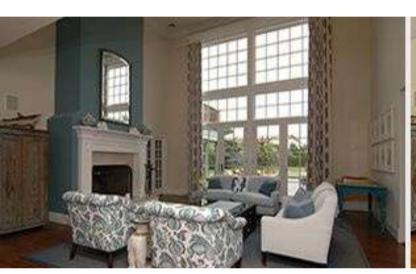
- + Staging makes the listing photos look phenomenal, attracting more buyers into the home
- + Staging allows buyers to envision themselves living in your home
- + Staging has been proven to get a higher price in a shorter time

CONS OF STAGING

- Staging can take time to set up and take down after selling
- Staging can be costly when hiring a professional stager company
- -If done poorly, staging may not be in the buyers' taste

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Over 95% of home buyers start their search online, so professional photography is imperative to selling a home! We hire a professional to come to take the best pictures and they are all completely edited to make sure your home is shown perfectly!





HOMES WITH PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY...

Receive an average of 87% more views than their peers across all price tiers.

A home with one photo spends an average 70 days on the market, but a home with 20 photos spends 32 days on the market.

Have a 47% higher asking price per square foot.

TOPEN HOUSES

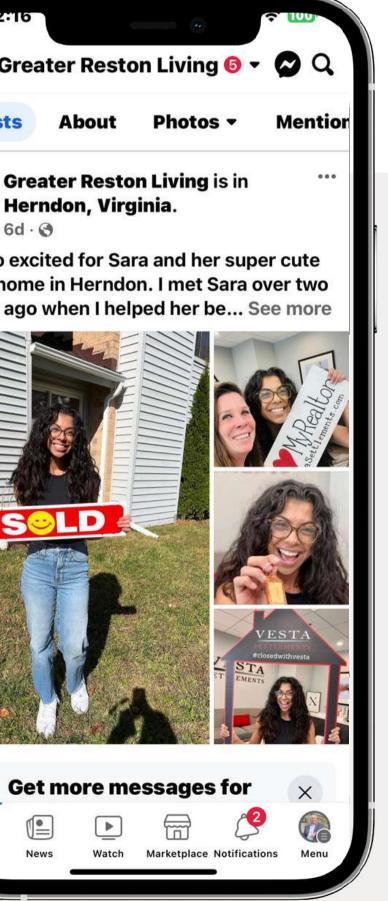


WE LOVE SHOWCASING YOUR HOME WITH AN OPEN HOUSE

A lot of buyers like to look at a home without any pressure. This is what we call the "two step" buyer. Most the time they start the process by going to the open house first then follow up with a tour by their real estate agent.

HOW WE PREPARE

- Posted on all major websites including Zillow, Trulia, and the local MLS
- Several signs strategically placed around your neighborhood
- Postcards/letters mailed to area
- · Posted on our social media accounts
- Social Media Ads
- Weekly Newsletter Blast
- Door Knock Neighborhood



SOCIAL MEDIA STATS

- An average user spends 2 hours and 24 minutes per day on social media in 2020.
- 50.1% of the time spent on mobile is done using social media apps in 2020.
- Facebook is the most popular, costing people an average of 2 hours and 24 minutes each day.
- Youtube takes an average of 40 minutes per day.
- Users spend an average of 30 minutes per day on Snapchat in 2020.
- Instagram users are spending an average of 28 minutes on the platform daily in 2020.
- Pinterest users take it slow and scroll through ideas for only 14.2 minutes every day.

We train constantly on the ever changing algorithms of the different social media platforms.
We pride ourselves in being the #1 real estate page in our area based on followers and interaction.



EMARKETING

Digital marketing is not about posting on social media and gathering likes and vanity metrics. It's a strategy requiring know-how and skills only tech-savvy marketers posess.

01

Video-First
Pillar Content
for Paid
Distribution



02

Paid Ad Campaign Across all the Socials, Google, & YouTube



03

Follow Up to Drive Showings and Increase Offers



DRIVES TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY

Our digital marketing strategy involves developing highly engaging video-first content, paid distribution across Instagram, Facebook, Google, YouTube, LinkedIn, and more.

The goal is to increase the number of target buyers who see your property, schedule showings, and increase the number of offers received. This strategy is proven to get an offers on your home faster and for more money in your pocket!

MARKETING

It is no longer acceptable for your real estate agent to just print and hand out the MLS stat sheet. Here are our top 3 marketing pieces we have printed with each listing.

Custom Property Flyer



02 3-Part

3-Part Custom Postcard Campaign



03

Custom Door Hangers for canvassing the neighborhood



FOLLOW UP MARKETING

According to a study done by MIT, the odds of contacting a lead more than 5 minutes versus 30 minutes drops 100 times. From 5 to 10 minutes the odds decrease by 5 times. Is there any wonder why the average single agent misses so many opportunities to convert buyer leads for their seller?

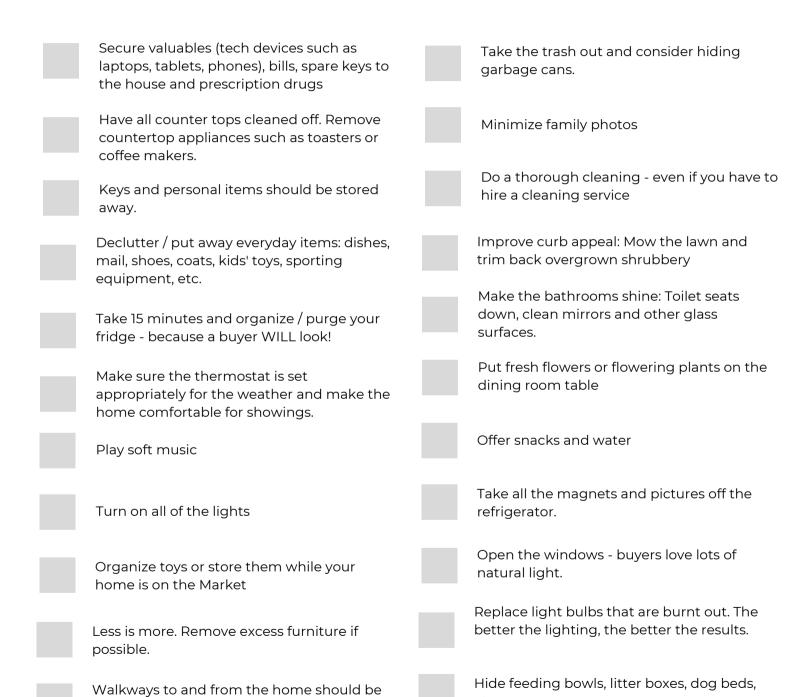
Our team is trained and prepared to follow up immediately.



LAST-MINUTE SHOWING CHECKLIST

clean and clear.

Make all of the beds.



etc.

showing.

Do a final dusting, sweeping and

vacuuming just before the open house or



SHOWING YOUR HOME

STEP 1:

A SHOWING HAS BEEN REQUESTED

STEP 3:

HOME IS PREPARED FOR THE SHOWING

STEP 5:

FEEDBACK IS RECEIVED

STEP 2:

YOU APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE

STEP 4:

YOU LEAVE AND THE SHOWING IS COMPLETED

STEP 6:

REVIEW FEEDBACK OR OFFER

COMMON SHOWING MISTAKES

Not accommodating showings: Sure, showings can be a pain to prepare for, and they can be scheduled last minute, but it's in your best interest to be flexible with your potential buyer's schedule whenever possible. They're usually looking at multiple homes in a day, and they may not circle back to see your home again if it's not available when they ask to see it.

Attending your own showing: It's considered a faux pas for sellers to be present during showings at their home, as it can make buvers feel uncomfortable. If you're selling your home on your own, without the help of an agent, consider using a lockbox for showings. If you're a forsale-by-owner (FSBO) seller and you have to host the showing yourself, don't hover. Let visitors explore your house on their own, and just be available to answer questions.

Taking feedback personally: It can be hard to hear criticism about your home, but it can be helpful. For example, if you find out a buyer said the carpets looked dirty, you can clean them before the next showing.



SHOWING FEEDBACK

When you're selling your house and have taken time to clean, pick up, and clear all your counters so a buyer can tour your home – you probably want to know what they thought about your house, right? Actually, you probably want them to make an offer! But, if they don't make an offer, it's common for sellers to want to know WHY.

The "why" is called buyer feedback. And, sometimes it can be confusing. Interpreting buyer feedback can be a difficult task. It's common practice on my team to ask the agent that showed the property what the buyer thought. We pass that information on to you to satisfy your curiosity. And here's a list of some helpful ways to interpret that feedback:

WHAT THEY SAY

"The furnace (or insert another large mechanical name here) is old and they're just not sure."

"They were hoping for an open floor plan."

"The floor plan wasn't right for them."

"They thought the rooms would be bigger."

"The rooms are smaller than they thought."

"They were surprised at the (insert name of something not shown in photos)."

"It was our first time out and they're just getting started."

WHAT THEY MEAN

The buyer is afraid of major expenses down the road. So, for the price your house is listed at - they fear it's going to cost too much money later and not be worth it.

Is it possible your photos are hiding something obvious that people won't like? Re-shoot the pics. Sometimes pictures are deceiving in that rooms look bigger than they are. And, sometimes photos don't show how awesome a house truly is. Or, maybe they didn't look at the photos very closely at all and it's not your pics at all. Either way, they're probably disappointed with the reality for whatever reason and not going to make an offer because it's just not what they want.

"It smelled funny."

"The pet odor was strong."

You need to clean, throw away air fresheners, and/or remove odor. It's amazing how much more a clean/fresh-smelling home will sell for vs. one that hasn't been prepared as well.

"More work than they expected."

"Too much wallpaper."

They might need to see more homes to understand the value but at the moment they're not excited enough about your house to make an offer.

WHAT THEY SAY

WHAT THEY MEAN

"The showing went well."

"It's a lovely home, thank the sellers for us."

Who knows what that means but more than likely if it's not followed with an offer it means they're not interested.

"The street was really busy."

"Didn't like the apartments behind the house."

"It's too close to the (insert name of something that buyers will be annoyed with - convenience store, school, business, etc.)." Sometimes the location of a house can really surprise a buyer (and sometimes the agent!) when they pull up to the house. For example, if your address is on a side street but the interstate is in your backyard. It's better to confront those issues in the listing than surprise people at the showing.

These are just a few examples of feedback we see – and give.

Ultimately, when someone gives you feedback, good or bad, but it's not followed with an offer – the feedback means the buyer didn't see the value in your house for the listing price.

But, that doesn't necessarily mean that you're priced too high. (Although, it might mean that.)

Really, it's all about VALUE.

As your listing agent, I use buyer feedback to understand where buyers are at value-wise. Feedback always tells a story. There are 3 reasons your house won't sell:

Location Condition Price

You can't change the location. So, if you live on a busy street or have apartments right next to your house, you can expect people to not love that.

You can change the condition. But, maybe you don't want to. Because if buyers are commenting that they think the house is too much work – you have a value problem. You can remedy the issues that are causing the issue (remove wallpaper, paint, update, etc) or you can adjust the price.

And, if your location is great and the condition is great but people still aren't buying your house? Well, that could be a number of things. But, the odds are good that it's a value problem and the market is rejecting your listing price. That's easy enough to fix – adjust the price.

WHAT TO DO WITH PETS During a showing



Most people love dogs, cats, and other household animals – but like most things, there is a time and place for everything. Unfortunately, having pets when selling a home can cause major issues and affect your bottom line. If you are an animal lover, we know this can be a bitter pill to swallow, but read on.... Here is what to do with pets when selling a home.

WHY DO PETS NEED TO GO...

Whether your home is being held open or having a showing, below are just some reasons why pets need to be removed from your home during these times.

FEAR & NERVES

It may seem hard to believe, but the fear of cats and dogs is the most common animal fear. While many people may not outright fear pets, they are not comfortable around them. We have seen clients refuse to go into homes that have pets. Of course, when selling, the goal is to get as many people through your door as possible to expand the field of interest.

UNPREDICTABILITY

Very often, we hear, "my cat is so nice" and "my dog doesn't bark." Well, we have had that "nice" cat attack potential buyers and draw blood, and that "non-barking" dog get so territorial it barks, growls, and scares buyers and agents — so much they have to leave. You very well might have the most well-mannered pet(s), but you never know how they will react to strangers coming into your home (nor do you know how a stranger will treat your pet).

WHAT TO DO WITH PETS WHEN SELLING A

Here are some ways our clients have resolved the issue of pets:

- 1. Leave them with family or friends while your home is on the market
- 2. Board them for a specific amount of time
- 3. Take them to work with you for the day (if this is an option).
- 4. Hire a dog walker to remove them for showings
- 5. Ask a close neighbor to take your pet during showings
- 6. Completely move out of your home and take them with you

STAGE FOUR: UNDER CONTRACT & CLOSING THE OFFER & CLOSING

NEGOTIATING THE OFFER

Did you know there are three separate times to negotiate in the purchase contract? The first is when we negotiate price and terms when the offer is first submitted. Second, there is an opportunity to negotiate during the buyer's inspection contingency. Last, during the buyers' appraisal contingency. It is essential that you have an experienced, knowledgeable professional working on your behalf during this process. Members of our team are negotiation experts, and we will use our expertise to work for you. Whom you choose to represent you matters.

THE OFFER

Once you receive an offer there are still several items that have to be handled properly. Making sure you properly disclose and obey all the terms of the contract are just a few of the important items. When we have an accepted contract, the escrow process begins. We help you every step of the way.





AFTER YOU RECEIVE AN OFFER

We will meet and review your offer together. Once the details are thoroughly reviewed and understood, you will have three options:

1- ACCEPT THE OFFER AS WRITTEN

2- DECLINE THE OFFER

If you feel as though the offer isn't close enough to your expectations to further negotiate this offer.

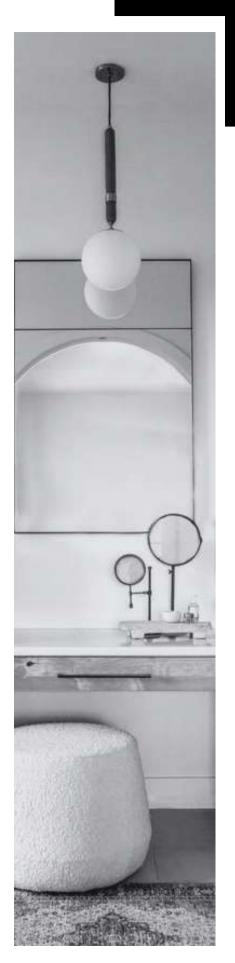
3- COUNTER OFFER

If you agree to most the offer but want to change a few details, we can counter the buyer with the new terms.

You can negotiate back and forth as many times as needed until you reach an agreement or someone chooses to walk away.

ONCE AN OFFER IS ACCEPTED BY BOTH PARTIES, YOU ARE OFFICIALLY UNDER CONTRACT.

CONGRATS!!



FINAL

ORDER THE INSPECTIONS

During the inspection period, the buyer's agent will schedule an inspection with a reputable home inspector to thoroughly investigate the home. Once this is complete, the inspector will provide the buyer with a list of findings.

ORDER THE APPRAISAL

The buyer's lender will arrange for a third-party appraiser to provide an independent estimate of the house's value. The appraisal lets all parties involved know that the price is fair. The loan file then moves on to the mortgage underwriter.

NEGOTIATE FINAL OFFER

Issues could arise after the home inspection, and those issues tend to result in another round of negotiations for credits or fixes.

- 1. The buyer could ask for credit for the work that needs to be done.
- 2. Think "big picture" and don't sweat the small stuff. A tile that needs some caulking or a leaky faucet can easily be fixed. We have a list of licensed professionals that can help with any repairs.
- 3. Keep your poker face. The buyer's agent will be present during inspections and revealing your emotions or getting defensive could result in more difficult negotiations.



DISCLOSURES

Virginia is considered to be a "buyer-beware" state. As a seller, you are obligated to disclose only known material defects. Buyers will be responsible for doing their due diligence through the home inspection process.



INSPECTIONS

It is important to understand the contingencies in the offers that are received. In our state, there is no requirement that the buyer has an inspection contingency, however, most do. It is important that you understand your obligations and options during this period and that your agent stays on top of the deadlines in the contract.



FINANCING/ APPRAISALS

It is important that your agent is skilled in helping you review offers and to make sure the buyers that have offered have been fully underwritten and are fully approved to avoid potential issues during this process.



CLOSING

Our goal is to help and coach you through the entire transaction. We understand that this is a process you only do a few times in your life, so we are here to guide you through every step of the way. We want to earn the role as your Real Estate Professional for LIFE...not just the single transation.

S C H E D U L I N G YOUR MOVE

AFTER SIGNING

- •Declutter! Sort through every drawer, closet, cupboard & shelf, removing items you no longer need or like. Donate or sell items that are in good condition
- •Get copies of medical records and store with your other important documents
- •Create an inventory of anything valuable that you plan to move
- Get estimates from moving companies

4 WEEKS TO MOVE

- Schedule movers/moving truck
- buy/find packing materials
- START PACKING

3 WEEKS TO MOVE

- •Buyer's lender will arrange appraisal
- •Title work will be completed
- Keep packing

2 WEEKS TO MOVE

- •We will schedule you a time to close and sign your documents
- Contact utility companies (water, electric, cable)
- •Change address: mailing, subscriptions, etc.
- Minimize grocery shopping
- Keep on packing

1 WEEK TO MOVE

- •Buyer will complete their final walkthrough
- Finish packing
- •Clean
- •Pack essentials for a few nights in new home
- •Confirm delivery date with the moving company. Write directions to the new home, along with your cell phone number

CLOSING DAY



Closing is when you sign over ownership paperwork and you hand over your home's keys!

FINAL WALKTHROUGH

Buyers will do a final walk of the home within 24 hours of closing to check the property's condition. This final inspection takes about an hour. They will make sure any repair work that you agreed to make has been done.

THEY WILL BE SURE TO:

- Make sure all appliances are working properly
- · Run the water in all the faucets and check for any possible leaks
- · Open and close garage doors with opener
- Flush toilets
- · Run the garbage disposal and exhaust fans

CLOSING TABLE

Who will be there:

- · Your agent (ME)
- You
- · Closing Officer

BRING TO CLOSING

- · Government-issued photo ID
- · Any funds needed to close

CONGRATULATIONS! IT WAS A LOT OF HARD WORK BUT YOU ARE NOW OFFICIALLY CLOSED!!

YOUSHOULD HIRE US



COMMUNICATION

Communication is the key to positive relationships. To that end, we have a multi-faceted communication program with our Seller which HOLDS US ACCOUNTABLE to what we tell you we are going to do. All Sellers in the Custom Listing and Service Plan receive weekly updates on marketing, showing activity and feedback on their property via email.

INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE MARKETING

We are consistently sharpening our marketing sword by taking the latest and greatest marketing courses and attending seminars that show you soon-to-be-released software/ products.

MARKET PREPARATION

Feedback buyers often give of homes that don't sell is that they couldn't envision themselves living in it given the current owner's choice of furnishings and any clutter or imperfections. We help to make sure this doesn't happen to you by utilizing our resources and trusted partners to complete any task deemed necessary.

TARGET MARKETING

We have been utilizing target marketing on the internet for over the past 5 years. (Youtube, Facebook, Instagram, Google) by doing so your home is seen and shown more.



OUR PROMISE TO YOU

ONE

I promise to tell you the truth about your property.

TWO

I promise to respect your confidence.

THREE

I promise to give you good advice.

FOUR

I promise that you will understand what you're signing.

FIVE

I promise to follow through and follow up.



KATE DALEY, ARLINGTON



CHRISTINE IBARGUEN, GREAT FALLS

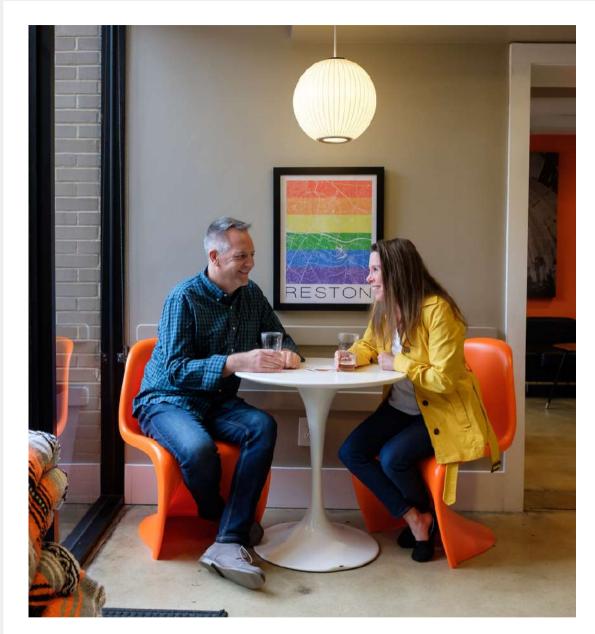


TINA EDMONSON, ASHBURN



A FIERCE ADVOCATE FOR MY INTERESTS WHEN NEGOTIATING DURING THE SALES PROCESS

MOLLY M., RESTON



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