

THE INFORMED Home Buyer/Seller™

Helpful Advice for Making the Right Move

Issue 7

Making Sure Your "Wish List" is *Complete*

Before shopping for a new home, it's common — and advisable — to create a "wish list" of the features you desire most. For example, you might want an extra bedroom for guests, ample space for a home office, a local playground for the kids, and so forth.

However, many buyers don't make their lists complete enough. You might find a home with the extra bedroom and nearby playground you want, only to realize, too late, that your commute to work becomes twice as long. You missed the importance of the commute because it wasn't on your list. Ouch!

When you make your wish list, don't be afraid to dream big. You might not be able to find a home that includes everything you desire, but you may be surprised by just how close you can get.

Here are some wish list items to consider:

- Distances to places you visit regularly – work, schools, running trails, recreation centers, restaurants, entertainment venues, shopping centers.
- Specific home features – a backyard tree, large closets, a fireplace, a two-car garage, a beautiful view.
- Neighborhood characteristics – safety, sidewalks, nearby public transit, playgrounds, the neighbors.

A complete list helps you make a better decision about which homes to consider. It helps you balance the positives — "I love the large kitchen with the marble countertops" — with the negatives — "The bathroom off the master bedroom is small" — to ultimately make the best buying decision.

Also remember to take your list with you when shopping for a new home. Use it as a checklist or as a way to organize notes. Ultimately it will make it easier to shortlist homes, compare them, and determine when you're ready to submit an offer.

Want to find out which homes on the market fit your wish list? Call Today.

Shop for Insurance Before You *Close*

After purchasing a new home, buyers are often focused on securing a good mortgage, hiring a reputable moving company, and preparing for moving day. Those are all important. But don't forget home insurance! It's an easy detail to miss. And if you wait until the last minute to make those arrangements, you may not have time to shop around and get the best policy and rate.

The ideal time to shop for home insurance? When your offer is accepted. Don't leave it until the last minute.

Think, Act... Live!

"To be successful you have to enjoy doing your best while at the same time contributing to something beyond yourself."

*Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi,
bestselling author of Flow*

"Security is mostly superstition... Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."

Helen Keller