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Between FRIENDS



Your best advocate when buying or selling a home

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My goal is to help you understand the process of buying or selling a home so that you will be able to make the best decisions possible. If you are ready to buy or sell, call me so that I can assist you every step of the way.



Some people don't realize the many benefits of a Home Protection Plan. However, as an experienced Real Estate Professional, I would like to point out how a quality Home Protection Plan can benefit you, whether you are buying or selling a home. A good Plan ensures the repair or replacement of covered home systems and appliances that fail due to normal use. For Sellers, this provides added value to your home when it is on the market. For Buyers, this means peace of mind and confidence in the purchase of your new home. I advise all my clients to include a Home Protection Plan with their transaction, and the company I trust to provide the *best service* and *coverage* is **Old Republic Home Protection**. Call me today for more information about how this valuable service can be put to work for you.

As a real estate agent, my role is to provide my clients with detailed, accurate and timely information throughout the entire home sale transaction, so they can make the best decisions possible. Please recommend me to your family and friends who are buying or selling a home, so that I can provide them with the same thorough service.



If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard this notice.

Health & Safety

Be Emergency Prepared – in Advance



No one can know when an emergency will strike that could keep us confined inside our homes for an unknown period of time, possibly without electricity, running water, or working telephones. Experts say that no matter where you live, you should be emergency-ready by assembling an "Emergency Preparedness Kit". Keep it in a central and accessible location in your home.

Drinking water: enough for each family member for several days

Food: enough non-perishable food to nourish each family member for several days – include a manual can opener, and any food items for special dietary needs such as diabetes

Flashlights: at least one, more if possible – and include charged batteries

Portable radio: also with charged batteries

First aid kit and book

Coolers to store ice and food

Large plastic garbage bags and duct tape: for repairs and other mishaps that might occur

Infant necessities if you have a baby

Blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags: enough so that each member of the family will be able to rest

Extra clothing: store several pairs of sweats, which can be easily used by different sized family members in a pinch

Crayons, coloring books, and a deck of cards: items that will keep small, restless children occupied

For more information on preparing for an emergency, visit www.ready.gov (US Department of Homeland Security) or www.RedCross.org (American Red Cross).

Helpful Hints

Taking Responsible Risks for Success

Taking risks is not second nature for most people because it requires them to move out of their "comfort zone". However, taking some calculated risks can produce great rewards – both personally and professionally. Here are some methods to help nudge you out of your comfort zone, and identify when taking a responsible risk could greatly improve your situation:

Discover and nurture your unique strengths, and capitalize on them. For example, find a creative solution to jump-start a project at work and propose the idea to your boss. Or even better, offer to lead the project team – especially if you have historically been a follower.



Reach out to people you admire and ask them to mentor you. People you ask will feel flattered, and likely be happy to share their skills, knowledge, and experience.

Take small steps – daily, weekly, or monthly – to consciously challenge yourself to move beyond your comfort zone. Then congratulate yourself for your risk-taking efforts, no matter how big or small, and no matter what the outcome – the important thing is that you had the courage to step out and do it!



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Savor the Flavor

Colorful Tomato Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 red hothouse tomatoes
- 2 yellow tomatoes
- 2 orange tomatoes

Dressing:

- 1/4 c. balsamic vinegar
- 1/3 c olive oil
- pinch of sugar
- salt and pepper to taste
- several leaves fresh basil, chopped
- or 1/2 tsp dried basil

Slice each tomato into thick slices, then cut each slice in half and put in a large bowl.

Mix remaining ingredients together well. Pour over sliced tomatoes and stir. Let flavors absorb for 15 minutes before serving, either chilled or at room temperature. If chilled, let stand 5 minutes before serving.



Brain Teasers

Planetary Pedagogy

1. How many planets are in our solar system?

- A. Eight
- B. Seven
- C. Thirteen
- D. Nine

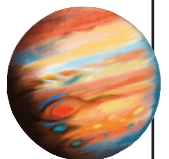


2. Which three planets were "officially" discovered?

- A. Mercury, Mars, and Venus
- B. Pluto, Mercury, and Venus
- C. Pluto, Neptune, and Uranus
- D. Saturn, Jupiter, and Neptune

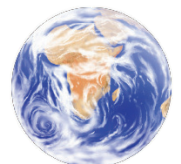
3. Which planet was reclassified in 2006 as a dwarf planet?

- A. Mercury
- B. Pluto
- C. Neptune
- D. Mars



4. Which planet rotates in the opposite direction than all of the other planets in our solar system?

- A. Earth
- B. Pluto
- C. Jupiter
- D. Mars



Household Tips

The Many Uses of WD-40

WD-40 was invented in 1953 at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company by three technicians who were searching for a solvent that would protect missile parts from rusting. It was their fortieth attempt at creating a "water displacement" formula; thus the name, WD-40.

Employees soon realized WD-40 had many additional uses, and



started stealing the solution to use at home. The company realized that it had a marketable product and began selling it commercially with overwhelming success.

WD-40 has only four ingredients – which are kept secret – and none of the ingredients will harm you, your children, or pets.

Below are some of the ways WD-40 can solve your household dilemmas:

- Cleans shower doors – both glass and plastic
- Untangles jewelry
- Removes grease from the stove and leaves a bright shine
- Makes floors appear just waxed, but not slippery
- Removes lipstick stains
- Removes tomato stains from fabrics
- Lubricates window tracks for easy sliding
- Prevents bathroom mirrors from fogging
- Removes all traces of duct tape
- Prevents silver from tarnishing
- Removes black scuff marks from linoleum
- Removes crayon marks from walls
- Lubricates zippers, scissors, and door hinges

ANSWERS: 1-A; 2-C; 3-B; 4-D