



IMPORTANT NEWS ON REAL ESTATE AND YOUR COMMUNITY

AREA REAL ESTATE

# NEWS&VIEWS



## SHORTCUT YOUR CLEANING

Sometimes you just can't find the right tool for the job, even with all the usual cleaning tools at your disposal. Here are some tips for those items and places that are always a pain to keep squeaky clean.

### THE MICROWAVE

The solution for a clean microwave is in your refrigerator (or maybe in the produce section of the grocery store). Microwave a cup of water and a few lemon slices, and then use a sponge to clean the microwave with the warm water.

### GREASE STAINS

This one works on clothes as well as surfaces. Rub white chalk on the grease stain, let it sit for five minutes, and then wipe it away with a wet rag.

### THE TELEVISION

Screens on HDTVs are delicate, and you want to avoid liquid cleaners, especially on LCD screens. Instead, take a dryer sheet and use it to clean the screen. The sheet will pick up dust and reduce static, and won't damage the TV.

### AIR VENTS

It's always tough to thoroughly clean air vents because the spaces are so small, but they attract a ton of dust. Wrap a small towel around a butter knife, and then use the knife to clean the openings in the vent.

Source: Brightnest.com

The Best Tips and Tools for Cleaning Some Common Household Items

## REAL ESTATE 101: WHAT EXACTLY IS THE MLS?

The acronym "M.L.S." is an everyday term in the real estate industry. So what exactly is the MLS?

On a basic level, the MLS is database of all of the properties available for sale and represented by a real estate agent in a given area. The MLS also creates the framework by which agents agree to cooperate and compensate one another. There is also a high level of supervision by the system administrators, which provides accuracy and professionalism, reducing fraud. With the emergence of search sites like Zillow, Trulia, and Realtor.com, the consumer has been empowered with valuable information, which is important. The key thing for home buyers and sellers to know is that these sites don't always have the most up-to-date or accurate information. If you are thinking of selling you will get the most exposure possible by being represented by an agent, who will place your home on the MLS.





## TAKE 5

### Five Tips for Funding Your Next Vacation

There's nothing quite like some well-earned time off in a cool new place, but vacations certainly don't pay for themselves. Here are a few ideas for funding your next getaway.

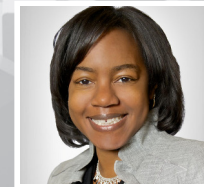
1. The change jar: It's not groundbreaking, but it works. Here's an eye-opening stat: Putting \$1.37 per day into your change jar adds up to \$500 in a year!
2. Sell your stuff: We all have some clutter that we don't need and have been looking for an excuse to get rid of, and that stuff can be pretty valuable. Think of what might be stored in your attic or basement—baseball cards, furniture, etc. It's not junk, but it's not doing you any good, and someone might find it valuable.
3. Set up a dedicated savings account: You could do this in your current bank account, or use one of several online services that are tailor-made for vacation savings. Have the money transferred directly from each paycheck so that you're always saving on schedule.
4. Get the kids involved: Vacations are even more expensive when you've got a family. If your kids get money from jobs, chores, or an allowance, ask them to put a little money away for vacation here and there—it could end up paying for a meal or a night in a hotel.
5. Volunteer: Your church or community center probably organizes low-cost vacations where you can visit a new place and do some good by giving back to the community.

## Sellers - Don't Make This Mistake

Many people find themselves wanting more space at home or needing to change their address for a number of reasons. In this situation, homeowners are trying to sell their current home while they look to buy a move-up home. Timing is everything, and it's important to know what your options are before making any final decisions.

The first and most important thing to do is to get your current home in tip-top shape for the market. It can be challenging – even stressful – to get qualified for two mortgages, especially in a slower market. Remember that your time frame can influence the factor of the actual selling price of your home. That is why it's important to have an experienced professional helping you with the transition and the timeline organization. We want to make sure that when you find your dream home that you are positioned as strongly as possible so you can move forward with ease. The second step is to get a current value on your home. This will help you understand how certain factors will affect your current home market pricing. It is also a good idea to have the condition of the home checked by a professional and make any needed improvements or renovations.

The transition of selling one home and buying another can be overwhelming. When you are ready to move forward, call us at (972)891-9253, visit <http://bit.ly/6moveupmistakes> to learn 6 MOVE-UP MISTAKES HOME BUYERS MAKE and email us at [deedra.hayes@kw.com](mailto:deedra.hayes@kw.com) for qualified lender suggestions and recommendations. Our team is ready to help you move up with ease.



**Call me today to  
schedule a free  
consultation.  
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