



NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Clark County, WA

MAY 2016

Save Energy and Money Today

Right in your own home, you have the power to save money and energy. Saving energy reduces our nation's overall demand for resources needed to make energy, and increasing your energy efficiency is like adding another clean energy source to our electric power grid.

An energy-efficient home will keep your family comfortable while saving you money. Whether you take simple steps or make larger investments to make your home more efficient, you'll see lower energy bills. Over time, those savings will typically pay for the cost of improvements and put money back in your pocket. Your home may also be more attractive to buyers when you sell.

The 115 million residences in America today collectively use an estimated 22.5% of the country's energy. Unfortunately, a lot of energy is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances, or inefficient heating and cooling systems. When we waste energy in our homes, we are throwing away money that could be used for other things. The typical U.S. family spends at least \$2,200 a year on home utility bills. You can lower this amount by up to 25% by following the tips listed below.

The key to these savings is to take a whole-house approach -- by viewing your home as an energy system with interdependent parts. For example, your heating system is not just a furnace -- it's a heat-delivery system that starts at the furnace and delivers heat throughout your home using a network of ducts. Even a top-of-the-line, energy-efficient furnace will waste a lot of fuel if the ducts, walls, attic, windows, and doors are leaky or poorly insulated. Taking a whole-house approach to saving energy ensures that dollars you invest to save energy are spent wisely.



Easy low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy

- Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher's drying cycle.
- Turn things off when you are not in the room such as lights, TVs, entertainment systems, and your computer and monitor.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use -- TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power.
- Lower the thermostat on your water heater to 120°F.
- Take short showers instead of baths and use low-flow showerheads for additional energy savings.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Air dry clothes.
- Check to see that windows and doors are closed when heating or cooling your home.
- Drive sensibly; aggressive driving such as speeding, and rapid acceleration and braking, wastes fuel.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR® label on light bulbs, home appliances, electronics, and other products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

-- Realtor.org

This month, I have focused on providing more resources on my website for my clients and contacts. If there is something else you would like to see included, please let me know. The web address can be found below. I am always looking for ways to improve my clients' home buying and selling experiences and I love your feedback!



Angie Hughes

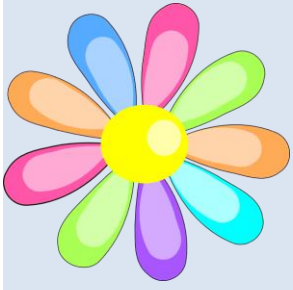
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Quote of the Month:

**Every
Accomplishment
starts with
the decision to
try**



From: QuoteDiary.Me

Market Stats: Clark County

March Avg. Sales Price: \$321,000 Avg. Days on Market: 66

Closed sales rose 14.2% above last year's closings. This year saw 699 closings compared to last year at 612. The average price of homes increased 9.4% from March of 2016 to the prior year.

For detailed information on your home's current market value and how it compares, please call me.

As of March 2016; Courtesy of RMLS



**Every Saturday (9AM-3PM) & Sunday (10AM-3PM)
Vancouver Farmers Market**

Location: Downtown Vancouver – Esther Short Park

The market is Southwest Washington's #1 visitor attraction and home to over 250 vendors. You'll discover fresh and local produce, flowers, plants, baked goods, delicious food, pet treats, and accessories for yourself, home, or garden. The Vancouver Farmers Market is a pet friendly place where you can chat with people who have grown or created your purchase, grab a bite, window shop...

May 21-22, 2016 (11AM to 4PM)

Dozer Days

Location: Clark Co Events Center – 17402 NE Delfel Rd

Admission: Children 2-12 \$8; Adults \$10

Dozer Days is a FUN community event where kids are put in the driver's seat of not only dozers, but fire engines, an ambulance and much more, while teaching about building sustainable communities, industry opportunities and educating children about safety and in addition once admission is paid the cost of most activities are free.

For more events in May, visit:

Visitvancouverusa.com/things-to-do/events