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NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT FOR LIFE

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Transition Time

Dear Friend,

As summer sizzles out and fall swoops in, it's time for a fresh start! My latest newsletter is packed with fun ideas to spice up your home and life.

Seasonal changes often bring about personal changes, too. Maybe your kids are heading off to college and you're considering downsizing. Perhaps you're celebrating the arrival of a new baby and need more space. Or maybe you're simply ready for a new adventure and desire a fresh start in a new home. Whatever your needs are, I'm here to help you navigate the world of real estate.

Whether you're buying or selling, I'm committed to making the process as smooth and enjoyable as possible. So, as we embrace the transition from summer to fall, let's celebrate the beauty of change and new beginnings. If you or anyone you know is considering a move, then don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to offer my expertise and support every step of the way.

Jim Urban

The Hidden Beauty Of Perception

A blind man sold flowers on a busy street; his vibrant stand contrasting with the gray city. Each day, people hurried past, barely taking notice of him or his blooms.

One afternoon, a young girl, enchanted by the scent and the blind man's serene demeanor, stopped at his stand. "Why do you sell flowers you can't see?" she asked.

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He smiled and said, "I sell them not for their beauty, but for the joy they bring to others. In their fragrance, I find a vision of a world kinder and more patient. My blindness teaches me to feel beauty in ways others might miss."

When she walked away, the bustling city around her seemed to slow, and the cacophony of traffic and chatter faded into a harmonious background hum.

Each step she took was lighter, as though the flowers had transferred some ethereal grace to her being.

The flowers seemed to whisper, revealing a hidden truth: Real beauty isn't in what we see, but in how we choose to experience the world around us.

Need to get Straight Advice on How to Sell a Home in This Market? or Want to Know How Jim Can Negotiate for You Like a "Pit-Bull" When You Find Your Dream Home?

Just go to:

MyHomeValueNow.com

Then click on one of the two buttons: "I'm looking For My Next Home" or "What is My Current Home Worth?"

September Dates

September 2 - Labor Day. This day celebrates the contributions of American workers and the labor movement.

September 8 - National Grandparents Day. Established in 1978, this day acknowledges the wisdom, support and love that grandparents provide to their grandchildren, and encourages family members to spend quality time together.

September 11 - Patriot Day. A day of remembrance honoring the victims and heroes of the events that occurred on September 11, 2001.

September 28 - National Good Neighbor Day. This day promotes community spirit and encourages people to be good neighbors by reaching out and connecting with those living around them.



Career Growth in The Digital Age

Thriving in today's digital landscape demands ongoing learning and skill adaptation. Here are essential skills to achieve career success:

Data Analysis: Use Excel, Google Analytics, and similar tools to interpret data for strategic decisions.

Critical Thinking: Enhance problem-solving by tackling challenges and learning from feedback.

Communication: Clearly convey ideas across platforms, practice active listening, and give constructive feedback.

Adaptability: Embrace change, new ideas, and different roles as needed.

Collaboration: Work effectively in teams, even remotely, using tools like Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

Emotional Intelligence: Manage emotions to build relationships and navigate workplace dynamics.

Continual Learning: Stay relevant through lifelong learning with online courses and workshops.

Focus on these skills to advance your career in the evolving digital age and embrace growth and opportunities in the modern workplace.

How To Use A Fire Extinguisher

Knowing how to use a fire extinguisher is crucial for ensuring safety and minimizing damage during a fire emergency. To start a fire extinguisher quickly and use it properly, remember PASS:

P: Pull the pin to discharge material.

A: Aim low. Spray at the bottom of the blaze first.

S: Squeeze the lever above the handle to operate, and release it to stop the spray.

S: Sweep the extinguisher from side to side until the flames are out.

Always ensure the fire extinguisher is fully charged and easily accessible. Regularly check expiration dates and service the extinguisher as needed.



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HOME ORGANIZATION TIPS: GET COZY FOR FALL



As the days grow shorter and cooler, this is the perfect time to prepare your home for the cozy fall season. Here are some tips to help prepare your space:

First, declutter each room and remove items you no longer need. Donating gently used clothing, books and household items can create more space and make your home feel refreshed and inviting.

Swap your summer clothes for fall attire. Store away shorts and tank tops in favor of sweaters and jackets. This simple switch will make your morning routine more efficient and organize your wardrobe.

Your entryway should be welcoming and functional. Add hooks for coats and a shoe rack to keep this area tidy, welcoming and functional. A small bench with storage can also help maintain a clutter-free space that is convenient for everyday use.

Organize and clean the kitchen. Check your pantry for expired items and restock it with fall staples, such as soups and baking supplies. A tidy kitchen makes meal prep more enjoyable and efficient.

Create a cozy atmosphere in your living room by swapping summer decor for fall-themed items, such as blankets, pillows and warm lighting. Doing so will make the space perfect for relaxing during the cooler months.

Your bedroom should also reflect the changing season. Replace lightweight bedding with warmer blankets and duvets. Have extra throws handy for added comfort, which will create a cozy and inviting retreat.

Remember your home office. Clear your desk of clutter, organize paperwork and add a touch of fall decor to make the space feel more inviting and productive.

Finally, prepare your outdoor space for fall. Store summer furniture and garden tools, remove leaves and add outdoor lighting for evening gatherings. Create a warm seating area with weather-resistant pillows and blankets, so you can enjoy the crisp autumn air.



E-BIKES: POWERING UP YOUR FITNESS AND FUN

Here is a way to make yourself stronger, improve your heart health, boost your mood and thinking power, and provide adventure: e-bikes.

That's right, electric bikes, or e-bikes, are pedal bikes fitted with a motor. Adult trikes also can be fitted with a motor. According to a 2019 study from the U.K., e-bikes might provide older adults with more physical and mental benefits than conventional bikes. A group of 100 older adults, ages 50 to 83, participated in the study. Half of the group rode conventional bikes; the other half rode e-bikes. Each participant rode at least three times a week for 30 minutes. The e-bike riders showed similar or greater benefits than the pedal cyclists.

Researchers concluded that the benefits come from physical activity and from engagement with the outdoor environment, such as by riding longer and going more places.

According to National Geographic, most riders use a low pedal assist power setting. Riders are pedaling, but not quite as hard--which helps them cash in on a host of benefits. Studies also show that e-riders have reduced stress, sleep better and are generally happier.

E-bike clubs provide companionship on bike paths and trails. E-bikes are available with a wide range of configurations and price points. You can buy an e-trike, such as the Liberty Trike, for about \$2,000.



This small and foldable adult trike holds riders up to 300 pounds and can be used in some public places as a mobility device.

Other bikes and trikes retail from \$2,000 to as much as \$13,000, although lighter bikes are the more-expensive ones.

*"The most important thing is to enjoy your life and to be happy
- it's all that matters."*

Audrey Hepburn



FRESH TOMATO AND BASIL BRUSCHETTA



This easy-to-make bruschetta highlights the fresh flavors of tomatoes and basil. It's perfect for a quick appetizer or snack!

Ingredients:

4 ripe tomatoes, diced
1/4 cup fresh basil leaves, chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
Salt and pepper to taste
1 baguette, sliced
Extra-virgin olive oil for drizzling

Prepare The Tomato Mixture:

In a bowl, combine diced tomatoes, chopped basil, minced garlic, olive oil and balsamic vinegar. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and let sit for 10 minutes to allow flavors to meld.

Toast The Baguette:

Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C).
Place the baguette slices on a baking sheet and drizzle with extra-virgin olive oil. Toast in the oven for 5-7 minutes until golden and crisp.

Assemble The Bruschetta:

Spoon the tomato mixture onto the toasted baguette slices. Drizzle a little more olive oil on top if desired. Serve immediately and enjoy the fresh, vibrant flavors!

This bruschetta is a simple and delicious way to savor the fresh flavors of ripe tomatoes, fragrant basil and rich olive oil, with minimal effort, making it a perfect choice for any occasion.

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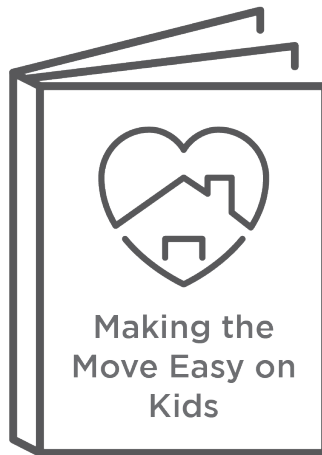
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