

Selling a House Today – part 1



It's been quite a while since I posted on my Blog and it is mainly due to the fact I have been busy trying to sell our homes, one in Ohio, and our home in Florida. My husband George and I, now in our senior years, have decided to plan our retirement years in a smaller dwelling and one free of "stuff". For many out there it must seem like such a luxury to have two homes. Yes, it may seem that way in today's economic environment, but after many years of dedicating our lives to working and raising children, having a second home was more than just a luxury. It was something we worked towards to enjoy our retirement with family and friends.

It didn't take long for us to realize that planning vacations and time with our grown children and grandchildren was not as easy as it appears. Adult children have their own life and work schedules, their children have school and may live far away, so those times together are limited and were not as frequent as we thought. So we changed our outlook and want to simplify our life with less space and clutter. However, there will always be a guest room available.

Downsizing was the way to go. So here we go, trying to sell two houses in the worst housing market ever. It is an eye-opener with many lessons to be learned.

In our 50 years of marriage we have moved several times mainly due to career requirements, and prior to 2005 the real estate market was very favorable for the Seller. In our past moves we have worked with many real estate agents and learned the process of selling or buying a home.

In those days you didn't object if the Seller was in the home at the time you were viewing the house or if there were children or pets in the house. Whoever thought that family or personal photos were not to be seen? And thank goodness it wasn't proper to mention you smelled any household odors.

It's a whole different bag today. It is definitely a Buyer's market and the poor Seller must meet the demands of realtors today. They will insist you remove yourself, your children and even your pets from the premises when showing your home. Not to mention, that you don't spray, put out incense, or anything to make the buyer think you are masking any "odors". But it would be nice if you baked a batch of chocolate chip cookies before they arrive. Sure, as if they didn't know that is a set-up aroma to make you think "doesn't this house smell homey"?

We have been going through this experience as a Seller and a Buyer and believe me it ain't fun. In my next post I will provide you with some tips that will make this experience a lot easier for you.