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REMEMBER ME ... when you are thinking about buying, selling, or building.

www.DennisMyRealtor.com

Own your own home is an important part of realizing the American Dream. If you are buying or selling a home this month, please call me so I can help you make a "dream" of a deal!



Some people don't realize the benefits of a Home Protection Plan. However, as an experienced Real Estate Professional, I would like to explain how a quality Home Protection Plan can benefit you, whether you are selling or buying a home. A good Home Protection Plan ensures the repair or replacement of major 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 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

"Reigning" Cats and Dogs

For pet owners, dogs and cats are beloved members of the family and are catered to like "royalty." Each year, however, Americans apply a vast array of toxic chemicals to their pets, intending to rid them of bothersome fleas and ticks, but unintentionally causing injury or death to their pets from exposure to pet products containing pesticides.



What You Can Do:

- **STOP** using toxic products immediately. Avoid these organophosphates (OPs): chlorpyrifos, dichlorvos, tetrachlorvinphos, malathion, diazinon, phosmet, and naled; and carbamates with chemical names of carbaryl and propoxur.
- **BEGIN** using safer products on your pets. Shampoos are safest, and fatty acid soaps are recommended.
- **GROOM** pets regularly with a flea comb while inspecting for fleas.
- **MAINTAIN** clean bedding and sleeping areas for your pets by choosing bedding with washable covers.
- **SEPARATE** your treatment methods for dogs and cats, using nontoxic products specifically made for each of them. Treatments that are perfectly fine for dogs can be quite toxic for cats.
- **PHONE** your local poison control center if you think you or your pet has been affected by a pet product containing pesticides. Also, report the incident to the EPA's National Pesticide Telecommunications Network, at 800-858-7378.

Household Tips

Preparing for a Technician's Visit

Have a Technician coming over for a service call? Here are some tips to promote a safe and functional environment during the service call:

Children – Curiosity of children can slow down or impede the Technician's work progress. Keep children outside the area being serviced or with a sitter.

Pets – Indoor pets also get curious and may become territorially aggressive when a Technician arrives. Also, pets can find their way outside if the Technician needs to go in and out of the house frequently. Make sure pets are tethered or in a secure room.

Floor Protection – To avoid having mud and/or dirt tracked into the house, lay down some old sheets, towels, or a drop cloth in main pathways leading to the area that will be serviced. Some Technicians have boot covers but not all of them do!

Advance Information to Give the Technician – Include make and model number of item needing repair, location of item – inside, outside, or under house (note size of opening) – and the address, phone number and directions to your home, should the appointment need to be rescheduled.

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Savor the Flavor

Easy Garden Frittata

Ingredients:

- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 medium potatoes, diced
- 1 cup broccoli florets
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1 carrot, diced or shredded
- 8 eggs
- 3 Tbsp milk
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, freshly grated

In a large skillet heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add the potatoes and vegetables; cook 5 minutes or until potatoes are browned, stirring occasionally. In a bowl, mix together the eggs, milk, and salt with wire whisk until well blended.

Pour the eggs over potato mixture and cover. Reduce the heat to medium-low and cook 10 to 12 minutes or until center is set. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and replace the cover. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes. Cut into wedges and serve.

Helpful Hints

Grounds for Your Garden

Let your coffee habit feed your garden! Coffee grounds provide a valuable source of nutrition for your garden if used properly, in the amount that is right for the condition of the soil and for what you are growing in your garden.

Here are a few general tips:

- Apply directly in your garden as a side dressing for vegetables, roses, and other plants. Coffee grounds are high in nitrogen, but are also acidic; adding brown material such as leaves and dried grass to the mulch will help keep a balanced soil pH.
- Add to potting soil used for houseplants or new vegetable/flower beds.
- Mix into your compost. Coffee grounds act as a green material with a carbon-nitrogen (C-N) ratio of 20-1, and make an excellent addition to your compost. Combined with browns such as leaves and straw, coffee grounds generate heat and will speed up the composting process.



Is your garden hungry for more? Collect spent grounds from friends and neighbors, or inquire at your favorite local coffee shop – most package their used grounds and give them to customers who request them. It's free food for your garden!

Real Estate Today

Why buy a home?

Sneak a peek at the benefits of ownership!



The desire for home ownership is so deeply rooted in the American psyche that it's called "The American Dream." Here are a few of the many reasons to pursue that dream:

Credit: Owning a home helps you establish financial credibility.

Investment: For most people, their home is their largest single financial investment.

Tax Advantages: Interest on your mortgage loan, your property taxes, and some closing costs are tax deductible.

Stable Housing Costs: No need to worry about the landlord increasing rent; you can feel secure knowing what your monthly housing costs will be.

Pride: A home reflects its owner's values and lifestyle, and provides you with a source of pride, enjoyment and satisfaction.

Security: A home can provide security against inflation because the value of your home increases as prices go up.

Stability: Being established in a community provides a sense of belonging, stability and security.