



DENNIS GRIGASSY Realtor®

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Between FRIENDS

THINKING ABOUT BUYING, SELLING, OR BUILDING? Contact me first!

www.DennisMyRealtor.com

Understanding the process of buying or selling a home in today's market will help you make the best decisions possible. Call me today so that I can assist you with every step of the transaction.



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 your local Real Estate Professional, I can help determine where to buy, offer tips to ready a home for sale, provide a current market analysis, aid with financing, and answer questions about desired neighborhoods. If you know someone interested in buying or selling real estate, please refer me to them!



If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard this notice.

Health & Safety

Drink to Your Health!

Did you know that tea is the most commonly consumed beverage in the world after water, and that some researchers actually consider tea a "healthier" drink than water?

Black, green, white and oolong teas all derive their leaves from a warm-weather evergreen tree known as *Camellia sinensis*. The leaves from this tree contain antioxidant polyphenols, which are the key ingredient that promotes health. In fact, due to these polyphenols, tea ranks as high as or higher than many fruits and vegetables in antioxidant potential. Studies have shown that polyphenols protect against heart disease and some cancers, aid in weight loss, and protect against Alzheimer's disease.



Herbal teas, however, do not have the same health-promoting properties; in fact, most herbal teas are not tea at all, but infusions made with herbs, flowers, roots, and spices.

The bottom line is that drinking tea is actually better for you than drinking water. Water essentially replaces fluids; however, tea replaces fluids and contains antioxidants. So, brew a cup of tea for at least 3 – 5 minutes to bring out the beneficial polyphenols, and enjoy!

Household Tips

Helpful Hints for Houseguests



You're planning a trip, and a kind friend or family member offers to put you up for a few days during your travels. Regardless of how close you may be to your host, you are still a guest. These hints will help you put your best foot forward as a houseguest:

- Stick to the agreed-upon arrival and departure dates.
- Demonstrate your appreciation up front by bringing the host a gift.
- Help with the cleaning and cooking. Offer to pay for gas and other expenses incurred by the host as a result of your visit.
- Inform your host of your schedule each day and don't expect the host to be your personal travel guide.
- As soon as you get home, write your host a note recounting your enjoyable stay and expressing thanks for the hospitality.

Even if it requires a little effort on your part, following these tips is the best way to ensure that you'll be welcome the next time you're in town.

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Savor the Flavor

Chicken Breasts with Garam Masala Vinaigrette

Ingredients:

VINAIGRETTE

- 2 Tbsp malt vinegar or cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp water
- 1 Tbsp tomato paste
- 1 Tbsp garam masala
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 cup canola oil

CHICKEN

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breast halves
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 1 Tbsp chopped fresh mint

This simple vinaigrette is punctuated by the warm, spicy flavor of cinnamon, one of the main ingredients in garam masala, an Indian spice blend. This spice mixture also usually contains cumin, coriander, black pepper and cardamom; look for it in the spice aisle of your grocery store.

Whisk all vinaigrette ingredients except oil in small bowl, then slowly whisk in oil. Heat broiler. Spray broiler pan with cooking spray. Sprinkle chicken with salt and pepper and place on broiler pan; broil 9 to 12 minutes or until no longer pink in center, turning once. Spoon vinaigrette over chicken; sprinkle with mint.

Helpful Hints

Late Again?

Do you consistently arrive late for meetings, appointments, and even dinner dates with friends? Despite the consequences and time wasted, chronic tardiness is often a difficult habit to break. Improving time management skills can be a great start on breaking this destructive cycle.

Here are some helpful tips:

- Plan to be *at least* 15 minutes early. That way, if you experience a delay beyond your control, there's a good possibility you will still arrive on time.
- Stop underestimating your transit time and how long certain tasks actually take. Factor every step into your time calculation – from getting ready to walking in the door at your destination.
- Stay organized – the less time you spend looking for your keys, purse, briefcase, etc., the better chance you have to get out the door on schedule, and arrive at your destination on time.

If you need more motivation to kick the tardy habit, imagine the look of approval you'll get and the satisfaction you'll feel when you show up on time – every time!



Real Estate Today

Avoiding a Real Estate Con Artist

Two common human emotions make us vulnerable to real estate con artists: trust and greed. When someone comes along promising an easy way toward a better life, our desire to believe overpowers our common sense. The following are some tips to protect yourself from a con artist promoting a bogus real estate deal:

- Use your common sense. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Hire your own Realtor® to show you the property and represent your interests.
- Hire your own independent appraiser.
- Read and understand all documents before signing them, and have your attorney review the paperwork, as well.
- Fill out the loan application yourself with accurate information, and write "N/A" on any spaces that do not apply to you before signing the application.
- Never buy a property you have not seen with your own two eyes.

Remember, knowledge is power. By hiring your own real estate professional to protect your interests, doing independent research, and carefully reading all documents before signing them, you empower yourself as an investor and make yourself a much savvier consumer.

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