

Drew's Clues

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Benefit from the End of Daylight Savings Time

On Saturday, October 31, remember to set your clocks back an hour. You'll get an extra hour of sleep on Sunday, November 1, if you get up at the usual time.

An extra hour of sleep on Sunday morning won't sound like a big benefit unless you

are usually up early for church. The good news is that your body's adjustment period will continue for several days afterward.

The return to standard time can help you catch up if you haven't been getting quite enough rest. It will feel good to

turn over and go back to sleep when the clock tells you it's an hour earlier than your body thought it was.

One key to gain the most the benefit: Get to bed when the wall clock says you should, instead of staying up an hour longer.

Outdoor Decorating, Melding Thanksgiving & Christmas page 3

U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the recession is mostly over and experts say the economy is on the way back up. With the stock market at it's high for the year, and manufacturing slowly rising, experts say the entire world is slowly but surely beginning its recovering from the recession.

But for most individuals, the typical dilemma remains, is this the right time to move up into a bigger house, grow your family and your life? Will there ever be a perfect time? Is the clock ticking as you decide whether to have a baby, get a dog, or buy a house?

Advisors writing in INC. magazine say that while you are building (or rebuilding) your nest egg, waiting for a promotion at work or building a small business, you are also composing a life. John Lennon had a point when he said "life is what



If Not Now, When?

To Buy Or Not To Buy. That Is The Question.

happens while you are busy making other plans." It's up to you to decide when and how you are going to build your life.

If you put off having kids too long, you may not get as many as you want or any at all. If you put off home dinners and patio parties with you spouse, you won't be building wonderful memories. And if you put off exercise, and your health could be at risk. It's easier with your own equipment in your own home.

Those who already have children have to decide whether having a luxurious home where they can grow is a worthy goal. Most families think it is. With the current low interest rates and bargain prices on real estate, your investment dollars can go much farther than before. While they are busy with other things, over time, their net worth will grow as the value of the home increases and their home equity grows

Those who own a business are often so busy planning their days that they have little opportunity to consider their personal lives or check the real estate market. Sometimes, however, the time has come to make personal decisions.

When it comes to owning or upgrading a home, shouldn't you ask yourself, "If not now, when?"

ASK THE EXPERT



Our Communities Offer COOL Activities!

Jim Henson's Fantastic World - From the Smithsonian & The Jim Henson Legacy, Jim Henson's Fantastic World offers a rare peek into the imagination of this brilliant innovator and creator of many beloved characters. Explore his process of "visual thinking" through works of art, photographs, documents, puppets, film and video. James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown. Ends Oct 29th.

Peddler's Village Apple Festival - Scrumptious apple treats include apple butter, apple cider, apple dumplings & apple fritters! Take a bushel fresh from the orchard home! Apple pie eating contests & live entertainment add to the festivities of this traditional autumn celebration. Free admission/parking. November 7-8th 10am-6pm.

Beatlemania Now! - Entertaining, authentic, & elaborate, BEATLEMANIA NOW is not just a Beatles Tribute Band. With as many as 7 authentic costume changes, these 4 accomplished musicians/actors/Beatles Impersonators all bear uncanny resemblances to John, Paul, George & Ringo, not only from across the room but up close & possess vocal talents to sound like them as well! No tracks, tapes or background music of any kind are used during performance. All songs are performed live on up to 21 authentic guitars, as used by the Beatles. November 28th, 3pm & 8pm. Adults \$29.50, Kids 12 & under \$15. Sellersville Theatre, Sellersville PA.

Q: We keep hearing of record numbers of 'short sales & foreclosures' for sale in the area. What is the difference between them? If we're considering purchasing an investment property, which should we lean towards?

A: If you have been considering purchasing an investment property. Now is really the prime time! A 'short sale' is a term used to describe a property that has a mortgage(s) that is more than the actual value of the home. The bank will then get 'shorted' in their re-payment. These properties are frequently in bad condition, have tax liens, & do not have any utilities on. We must go to see them in the daytime for you to get a full grasp of what work would be required to bring the home up to conditions acceptable for occupancy. The process is a lengthy one due to banks being under-staffed & the large number of owners in this situation. It can take up to a year from the time we submit an offer to settle. A 'foreclosure' is a property that is already owned by the lien-holder (bank). These properties allow for contract to settlement in a pretty quick time-frame, sometimes within 2 weeks. Like short sales, most of these homes will not have utilities on either. The best Buyer for either of these types of properties is someone who is (or has close ties to) a Contractor. Reason being you want to grasp a worst-case scenario of all repairs required prior to submitting your offer. If your thinking that you would have typical inspections like an owner-occupied home, think again. In order to have those inspections, you would need to contact PECO, the water company, etc to have utilities turned on in your name (& at your expense) for the day you'd want to inspect. Many of the homes are 'winterized,' meaning that a plumber has turned off the main water supply & filled piping with anti-freeze. In order to inspect, you'd need to contact a plumber to de-winterize, activate the utilities then re-winterize (as the banks demand) post-inspecting. So the long & the short of it is, if you are a handy-person or a contractor, contact me ASAP as you can get GREAT DEALS currently, for the lei person, it may be more than you could handle... Contact me for more info or to go looking!

JUST LISTED - Arborlea - \$389,900
Pine floors, custom Kitchen, 448' deep lot!



JUST LISTED - Pinebrook Farms - \$379,900
2 Main Suites, 2-story rear, backs to stream!



Outdoor Decorating: Meld Thanksgiving with the Holiday Season for a fresh look

Decorating for Thanksgiving still involves cornstalks, pumpkins and cornucopias near the door step. The view puts you in the spirit of Thanksgiving as you come to dinner. But watch when happens that night.

The Christmas lights go on! It's a

more recent development in Thanksgiving celebrations but one that is embraced by many people.

It's smart to decorate trees before late November because the weather is more favorable. Then, the first lighting takes place on Thanksgiving night for family and friends to see.

Store owners play a part in the early decorating. They have tempted people with Christmas lights and decorations for weeks ahead of Thanksgiving Day.

Sprucing up the outside of a home for the holidays gets into high gear after that. As the autumn scene becomes dreary and

dry, it's time for colorful but wintery-looking arrangements by the door, on the balcony or on the patio.

One decorator recommends red flower pots overflowing with evergreens and eucalyptus leaves with a glazed ball for color. Water fresh evergreens after placing them in the planter and add red berries. Winter pots must be made of heavy plastic, concrete or metal.

For a decoration that will be enjoyed after the holidays, use live wreaths that extend over the rims of planters with pine cones in the center and dried branches reaching a foot or two above them.



The New Normal: Home Buyers Have the Power!

The American dream of home ownership is still attainable. In fact, it could be more attainable now than in many years in the past.

According to the National Association of Realtors' housing affordability index, homes are more affordable now than at any time since the group started the index in 1970.

The affordability index is a measure of the relationship between home prices, mortgage interest rates and family income.

There is a large inventory to choose from, including beautiful homes for sale at bargain prices, foreclosed homes that could be purchased for a fraction of their value, and new homes that are competitively priced. With more choices, buyers could get what they want at a price they can afford.

New home builders are even getting into the act with more aggressive pricing. Some advisors recommend looking at completed new homes first. Builders want to clear their inventory of newly built homes.

Mortgage rates are historically low. It's not just the price of a home that re-

flects affordability, mortgage terms also affect the monthly payment.

If you act in November, you can still get an income tax credit of up to \$8,000 if you haven't owned a home within the last three years. The offer may be extended by Congress.

Though many local banks and mortgage companies are asking a down payment of 10 percent and a high credit score, mortgage loans from FHA, the Veterans Administration and Fannie Mae require less.

FHA loans are available for a 3.5 percent down payment. They ask a credit score of only 620.

Fannie Mae will accept a 3 percent down payment, and the VA may require no down payment on loans up to \$729,000.

All debt is not created equal, say authorities at bankrate.com. While consumers are urged to not to carry large credit card balances, a home mortgage is one of the best uses of credit.

Home buyers have negotiating power and the ability to get loans that will fill their needs and make their wishes of home ownership come true.

Life Expectancy At All Time High

U.S. life expectancy has risen to a new high. It now stands at nearly 78 years, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. That's three months higher than it was in 2008

The increase is due to falling rates in almost all the leading causes of death. Life expectancy in the United States has grown nearly one and a half years in the past decade.

The United States continues to lag behind 30 other countries in estimated life span. Japan has the longest life expectancy, 83 years.



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Special Days to Keep In Mind...

November 1 - Daylight Savings - set your clocks back an hour!

November 3 - Election Day - Head out to vote for your local officials!

November 11 - Veterans Day - Love your freedom? Thank a Vet! Take a moment to stop by the new 911 Memorial in LMT.

November 26 - Thanksgiving - Remember to be extra thankful for our troops who are far away from home on this special day...

November 27 - Black Friday - Holiday Shopping Begins!

November 30 - LAST DAY to settle to get the \$8,000 first time Buyer tax credit!

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reliable & reasonable contractors!*

