

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Brought to you by: Dick Berger, JD, Green, ABR, ePro
Email dick@dickberger.com; Cell 843-368-1510

Countertops, Countertops and More Countertops

Will it never end? How much more confused can you be. There is close to twenty different types of countertops to select. Granite seems to be the product of choice and with nearly 3000 colors to choose from you can see why. But it requires some maintenance and some stones absorb stains if not sealed it can crack if stressed.

Engineered stone such as Zodiaq® or Silestone® is composed of 93% quartz particles and is available in a larger range of colors than granite and has a nonporous surface that resists scratches. It's easy to maintain, without the annual sealing required by natural stone.

You can then look at concrete (yes concrete), laminates, solid surfaces, ceramic tile, stainless steel, glass, wood and marble. You can even find Green countertops made from cork or ultra-compressed recycled paper.

There is no easy answer and each re-do may dictate the best solution. If you need more information go About.com and look at Interior Designs. There is always more information available on the web.

Putting Your House Up For Sale? Get These Essential Tips



If you want to get the best price for your house, it's essential to prepare it for sale. Homes that have been "staged" go for a lot more money... and sell much more quickly, too.

To give you a head start, get my free guide, "50 Essential Tips to Prepare Your Home for a Speedy, Top-Price Sale."

Just call me at 843-368-1510 and I'll send it right out to you.

Future Energy Costs— Cap and Trade

This is not going to be an article on 'Cap and Trade' - there isn't enough room. It is however a reminder that any form of cap and trade WILL result in higher energy costs.

The most effective way to hedge against such increases is to reduce your costs now. Understanding what can be saved or reduced requires an audit—one you can do yourself.

You can easily conduct a home energy audit yourself. With a simple but diligent walk-through, you can spot many problems in any type of house. When auditing your home, keep a checklist of areas you have inspected and problems you found. This list will help you prioritize your energy efficiency upgrades.

First, make a list of obvious air leaks (drafts). The potential energy savings from reducing drafts in a home may range from 5% to 30% per year, and the home is generally much more comfortable afterward. Also look for gaps around pipes and wires, electrical outlets, foundation seals, and mail slots.

Check to see if the caulking and weather stripping are applied properly, leaving no gaps or cracks, and are in good condition.

All of this may seem pretty obvious, but will you do it. You will wish you did when the first increased bill is received.

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Dick Berger
Full Service—Full Time

November in the Lowcountry

First - 20th Annual Taste of the Season

Taste of the Season is the Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce's premiere culinary festival. It is an upscale food event held at the private Sea Pines Country Club attracting a crowd of about 1,000 residents and visitors.

Taste of the Season will spotlight more than 30 of the area's top chefs and restaurants. While food is the focus, attendees will also be able to browse great gifts offered in the silent auction which include getaways, works of art and golf packages.

This year's defending champion for Best Cuisine is Red Fish, which took the honors

with the offerings of grilled sea bass with udon noodles and a prime rib roast. The Hilton Oceanfront Resort's new HH Prime took the honors of the Celebrity Chef's Pick with their beef tenderloin, bread pudding and crab cakes. November 13th, 6—9pm.

Second - Hilton Head Oyster Festival

November 14 and 15 at the Shelter Cove Park from Noon to 5PM. There will be oysters, shrimp, chili, hotdogs, hamburgers and a fantastic Kids Area. All proceeds go to benefit The Island Recreation Association Children's Scholarship Fund. There will also be a Silent Auction and 'no pets please'.

Wondering How Much Your Home is Worth?

If you're wondering what's happening to prices in your area, or you're thinking about selling your house, I'll be able to help.

Just give my office a call for a no-fuss, professional evaluation.

I won't try to push you into listing with me or waste your time.

I'll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

And maybe I'll also give you the "inside scoop" on what's happening in the housing market near where you live!

Just give my office a call at 843-368-1510 to arrange an appointment.



Located at 40 Calhoun Street. Last one of the season Nov. 19th 2—6PM

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Dick Berger

Keller Williams Realty

8 Lafayette Place, Suite 203

Hilton Head Island, SC 29926

W 843-682-8100; Cell 843-368-1510

Fax 866-241-2213

Email—dick@dickberger.com

Web Site: www.dickberger.com

Web Site: www.GreenHiltonHeadRealEstate.com

Thanks for reading! If you'd like to tell me what you think about this newsletter, or if you're thinking of buying or selling real estate, please get in touch.

