

# NEWS YOU CAN USE

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## Cash for Clunkers— Next Comes Cash for Appliances

Later this year or into early 2010 nearly \$300 million will become available to help consumers replace and upgrade home appliances to Energy Star qualified appliances. This program is being funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and administered by the U. S. Department of Energy.

While not all of the details have been worked out it appears the program will be administered by the individual states rather than Uncle Sam. Therefore each state will determine the rebate amounts for the various appliance types.

The expected rebates may be somewhat small (\$50 to \$200), but it is hoped that the program will prompt consumers to finally get rid of their 1995 refrigerator and replace it with an energy efficient one.

While it is up to the states as to the numbers the Dept. of Energy is hopeful that more emphasis will be placed on central air conditioners, boilers and of course appliances. Not only is the program hoping to have consumers dispose of their old appliances, but in so doing realize that the replacement will be more efficient and therefore even more savings through energy costs.

## 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.

## First Time Homebuyer Tax Credit—Yes Again!!

I know that I have dealt with this issue before, but since the program is fast coming to a close I wanted to make sure everyone who may have a friend or relative that can benefit from the credit does in fact take advantage of it.

I'm not going into all the specifics of the program as I did in an earlier newsletter, but just what impact it has had and what it can still do. Remember the program goes away if you do not close before November 30, 2009.

Nearly 1.4 million homebuyers have claimed the tax credit and nearly 350,000 say they would not have purchased were it not for the program. An extension of the program in its current form would generate an additional 335,000 sales through November 30, 2010. It seems like a small number, but as inventories start to shrink prices should start to go up and that certainly benefits today's beleaguered seller.

Some want the program expanded to \$15,000 and remove the first time status. That is unlikely, but a six month extensions seems feasible. Again, if you know anyone who can benefit from such a credit please insure they talk with their local Realtor.

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**Dick Berger**  
*Full Service—Full Time*

## Social Networking—Never Enough

I'm not sure this article truly qualifies as News You Can Use for a real estate newsletter, but here goes.

Everyone has heard of Facebook, MySpace and seen YouTube videos and if you are in business you are probably on LinkedIn. Beyond that we are for the most part clueless. Well there are over 400 social media sites and I may be really on the low side. But I thought what I would do is give you some that are narrow in scope and some that are just fun. I make no representation as to the sites themselves.

For a really good sports site go to <http://ballhype.com/>

For a site dealing with entertainment <http://showhype.com/>

For celebrity gossip go to <http://lipstick.com/>

For investing information go to <http://www.valueinvestingnews.com/>

For more financial information <http://tipd.com/>

For general news, but more on the weird and at the very least unique try <http://www.plime.com/>

For a good community driven news outlet go to <http://www.newsvine.com/>

For another news outlet and the opportunity to comment on them go to <http://www.fark.com/>

I hope none of these sites offends anyone. The entire point was to show just how far niche sites have come, especially as social media sites where you have the opportunity to comment all day long. I guess the sad commentary along with this is how many people are addicted to them.

## 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.



**HILTON HEAD ISLAND-BLUFFTON  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**Remember the Bluffton  
Arts and Seafood Festival  
October 18—25.**

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**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.**

