## **MICHELLE LAGLE HICKS**







Gardendale

# WHAT I'M SEEING IN OUR LOCAL

continuing to migrate toward affordable, spacious areas like Shelby County and Jefferson County. Inventory has improved slightly, but many homeowners are still "rate-locked," keeping supply tighter than normal and prices relatively stable. Remote and hybrid work are still shaping buyer preferences, with high demand for flex spaces, home

suburbs, though higher building costs are pushing builders toward more efficient, moderately sized homes. Build-to-rent communities are also expanding as renters seek suburban living without long-term commitments. Overall, Alabama remains a desirable market driven by job growth, lifestyle appeal, and steady population increases.

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## **REAL ESTATE** TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter puts extra stress on your home. This is a great time to replace HVAC filters, check for drafts around windows and doors, clear gutters of debris, and keep an eye on pipes during cold snaps. Staying ahead of small maintenance tasks now can help prevent costly repairs later in the year.

Protecting your home in winter protects its value. Simple maintenance like sealing drafts, servicing the heating system, clearing gutters, and monitoring pipes during freezing temperatures helps prevent damage and preserves long-term value. Homes that are well cared for year-round tend to sell faster and for more when the time comes.



# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

IN SHELBY COUNTY

IANUARY

Birmingham Bulls Hockey

7PM



IANUARY

All American Circus

4PM-6PM



JANUARY

Forging Families 5K/10K & Fun Run

4PM-6PM



Kevin Derryberry Band



JANUARY 16-17

Shelby County Extreme Bulls

4PM-6PM



IANUARY

World of Wheels Custom Auto Show:

4PM-6PM



