

Real Estate w/ Cindy

~A Monthly Newsletter



AUGUST 2024



18 BACK-TO-SCHOOL HOME ORGANIZATION TIPS

BY [JOSEPHINE NESBIT](#) | US NEWS

The summer is winding down, which means it's time to prepare for a new school year. This means a new morning routine, school pickup and drop-off, homework, meal planning, after-school activities and more. Before school even starts, parents also need to pick up school supplies, backpacks and new clothes.

To help ease your stress, we put together a list of back-to-school home organization tips for parents with kids of any grade level.

- Stick to a routine.
- Make a morning checklist.
- Early bedtime.
- Set up a designated homework station.
- Declutter.
- Create an easy-access school supply center.
- Have a drop zone.
- Set up a charging area.
- Organize bedrooms.
- Stock up on reusable storage bags.
- Establish a family command center.
- Plan meals in advance.
- Opt for dual-purpose storage.
- Consider clear organization bins.
- Label everything.
- Have a reward system.
- Keep your school supply closet fully stocked.
- Go through backpacks every night.

In this newsletter you can expect:

18 Back-to-School Home Organization Tips

St. Louis Pools Are Hosting End-of-Summer Dog Swim Events

These Red Flags Can Make Your House an Easy Target for Burglars!

Best Places to Retire on the East Coast

Ask the Expert: *Can you provide references?*

Featured Blog: *These mistakes make your home way less appealing to buyers!*

About Me



These St. Louis-area pools are hosting end-of-summer dog swim events

By Jennifer Somers | KSDK.com | August 21, 2024

As the dog days of summer gradually wane, we find ourselves bidding farewell to the vibrant swim season at St. Louis-area pools and aquatic centers. With each passing day, the opportunity for sun-soaked splashes diminishes, urging us to seize the remaining moments of aquatic delight.

However, there's a delightful twist to this seasonal transition: our four-legged companions are invited to partake in the aquatic festivities! Yes, you heard it right—many pools are extending their hospitality to our furry friends, granting them a chance to paddle, play, and revel in the refreshing waters.

So, where can you bring your beloved canine for a day of sun-drenched merriment? Let's explore the options together, ensuring that your loyal companion enjoys the tail end of summer in style.



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PARTICIPATING POOLS](#)

Missouri Botanical Garden shares gardening tips ahead of fall

By Show Me St. Louis | August 2024

Fall is just around the corner! So for all you summer gardeners out there, you might be panicking. But experts share there's no need to!

Back to School time always means fall is just around the corner! So for all you summer gardeners out there you might be panicking. But luckily for you, the Missouri Botanical Garden shares no need to panic.

In fact, Missouri Botanical Garden expert, Daria McKelvey explains most of your warm season vegetables, like tomatoes, will keep going! Especially with St. Louis weather, we could easily have a warm spell that goes through November! McKelvey shares you can protect your plants from overnight frost throughout the fall. However, if you have the space and are looking to plant this autumn you do have some options!

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VIDEO](#)



These Red Flags Can Make Your House an Easy Target for Burglars!

By Stefanie Waldek | House Beautiful | August 2024

Burglars don't want to get caught, which is why they usually wait until you're out of your house before they break in. Who's tipping them off that you're out of town and your house is a sitting duck? Chances are, you're the one broadcasting the news—by not taking steps to make sure your house doesn't look empty.

"In addition to security cues like alarm systems, burglars look for what's referred to as 'occupancy cues,' giveaways that tell them whether you're home," says security and intelligence professional K. Campbell, principal at Blue Glacier Security & Intelligence LLC. "If you go away for even a few days, such as for a long weekend, your home might lack occupancy cues."

Occupancy cues are exactly what they sound like—signals that someone is at home. Fortunately, there are a number of ways you can make sure your house is giving occupancy even when you're far, far away. "A solution for the absence of occupancy cues is to insert randomness at your home," says Campbell. "The U.S. government uses random security measures at its installations in order to deter would-be attackers, so randomness can work at home."

Here are five dead giveaways that no one's home, making your house a potential target for burglary—plus expert solutions for how to avoid them.

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5 DEAD GIVEAWAYS NO ONE'S HOME



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Best Places to Retire on the East Coast

The Center for Retirement Research at Boston College reports that, as of 2023, the average man will spend 19.5 years in retirement based on a median retirement age of 64.67 and a life expectancy of 84.17 years. That's almost a quarter of one's life—a pretty significant figure. Given this, choosing where to retire is arguably just as important as choosing where to raise a family. You need to ensure your savings will stretch, and both your needs (affordable housing, proximity to medical care) and desires (climate, access to preferred activities) are met.



Ask the Expert

Another great question I get asked is ... **Can you provide references?**

Absolutely! While I don't provide reference letters like in a traditional job interview, I can direct you to a dedicated webpage where you'll find heartfelt testimonials from past clients. These testimonials highlight their experiences working with me, from successful transactions to exceptional service. Alternatively, I'd be thrilled to connect you directly with someone who has firsthand knowledge of my commitment and expertise. Hearing directly from a satisfied client can provide valuable insights into my approach and dedication.

Additionally, you can explore reputable platforms such as Zillow, Trulia, or social media. There, you'll find additional reviews and ratings from individuals who have engaged with my services. Remember, a positive and confident response is a reassuring sign when evaluating an agent! Feel free to reach out, and let's discuss how I can assist you in your real estate journey. 🏡🌟

Remember, I'm here to make your experience exceptional! 🏡🌟

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Have a question for me? Let me know and I'll feature it in an upcoming newsletter! Chances are other folks are asking the same question!

ASK AWAY!

You know what? You can insult a lot of things about me. My hair, my voice, my balance support exercises. But, don't insult my selling. That crosses a line. What line? Oh, you don't see it? That's because I sold it.

"PHIL DUNPHY"

BLOG OF THE MONTH

Each month, we'll highlight a Blog post from our website.

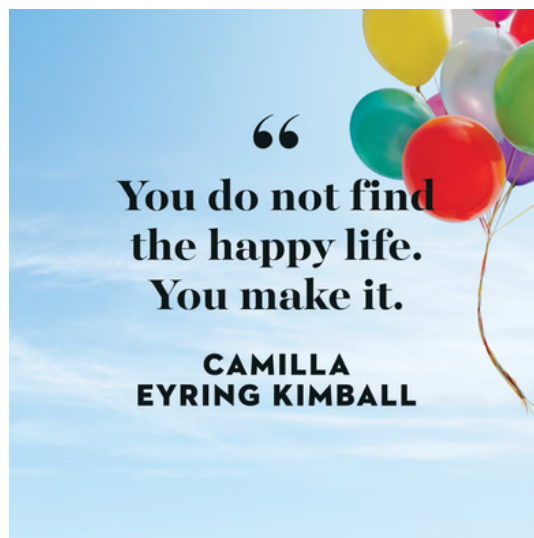
Want more now? Go to www.cindylacks.com/blog for more great helpful information!



Whether you're considering selling your place or just want to make your home look the best it possibly can, it never hurts to educate yourself on common faux pas that detract from its potential. Here, realtors and real estate experts have weighed in on the biggest mistakes both inside and outside of your home that make it less appealing. Thankfully, though, for every mistake, there's an easy and wallet-friendly fix. Read on for advice on how to tackle clutter, refresh the aesthetic of any room, improve curb appeal, and so much more.

Remember, having a knowledgeable agent by your side can make all the difference in achieving a successful sale! 🏡😊

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ABOUT ME

Having lived and worked in St. Louis more than 30 years, I understand what makes our community and the people who call it home so special. From summer watermelon festivals to the local bookstores and coffee shops in CWE, to Webster Groves 4th of July parade, I am proud to call St. Louis home.

That's what it takes to truly be a local real estate expert. Not just expertise in negotiation and marketing, but a love and understanding of our community and the people who live here.

Thank you for reading!



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