



Real Estate MATTERS

October 2014

OCTOBER Events

Oktoberfest ends – October 5

Halloween – October 31



Pumpkin cake

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 ¼ cups vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 cups canned pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp baking soda
- ¼ tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 12x18 inch pan. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt and cinnamon. Set aside.

2. In a large bowl, combine the sugar and oil. Blend in the vanilla and pumpkin, then beat in the eggs one at a time. Gradually beat in the flour mixture, and stir in the nuts.

3. Spread batter into the prepared pan. Bake for 30 minutes, or until an inserted toothpick comes out clean.

4. Allow to cool and top with your favorite frosting and candy.



Tips for surviving HALLOWEEN

Whether you're prepping kids for a night out or heading out for your own festivities, use these tips to keep your Halloween free from scary mishaps.

If your kids are trick-or-treating:

- Add reflective tape to costumes or candy bags for better visibility
- Make sure you and your kid(s) are equipped with flashlights
- Use costume makeup instead of masks to avoid obstructed eyesight
- Pin long costumes and wear comfortable shoes to prevent tripping
- Forego pointed accessories – like swords and sticks
- Accompany your kids out or arrange for them to trick-or-treat with a group supervised by an adult
- Teach your kids how to safely cross the street and check for oncoming traffic
- Only visit a home if the porch light is on
- Plan a route and stay together
- Examine treats and toss out anything unwrapped

No kids?

- Slow down and drive carefully, and be sure to keep an eye out for children crossing the street
- Properly restrain your pets
- If you're handing out treats, clear your yard of any items visitors may trip on
- Keep your home and walkways well-lit (unless you're closing up for the night, then simply turn your porch light off)
- Replace jack-o'-lantern candles with flameless candles or glow sticks

Have a safe — and **SPOOKY** — Halloween!





10 Quick and Easy Kitchen Updates

Add new life to your kitchen with these easy kitchen updates:

1. Paint an unused cabinet surface with chalkboard paint. A little chalkboard paint makes the surfaces ready for grocery lists, family to-do lists or just as a space for your kids to be creative while you cook.
2. Paint cabinets an accent color. Go bold with a bright blue, or sunny yellow.
3. Add new hardware to your cabinets. A decorative pull can add sophistication or a little quirkiness to your kitchen.
4. Keep a kitchen herb garden on a window sill. The extra herb flavor may help you cut down on salt intake.
5. Install a pull-out shelf. These can be used to make it easier to reach distant pots and pans in your cabinets.
6. Add shelves for more storage space. Stack your plates and glassware on them so they're handy.
7. Install a water purification system under your sink. Time to get rid of all those plastic water bottles.
8. Get a kitchen cart. A kitchen cart doubles as preparation surface and storage (great for renters!)
9. Buy tiered racks to expand your storage space vertically. A removable rack doesn't involve any installation and instantly adds two or three more tiers to your cabinet storage.
10. Add a backsplash accent. Splurge on high-quality tiles for a small space – easy on the wallet, and the eyes.

Call me and I'll be more than happy to help you list your property and find a new home – complete with your dream kitchen!

Your October Maintenance Tip



As winter approaches with its bone-chilling drafts, fortify your home against the cold with these five simple, cost-effective steps.

Step 1: Beware the draft

A drafty window or doorway may increase your energy bills by 5% to 30%. Use weather stripping in window sills and door jambs where movement and flexibility is necessary. For more permanent leaks, use caulking. Stop-up drafty gaps with a "draft snake."

Step 2: Insulate

The addition of heavy drapes or air-cushion blinds in the winter keeps the warm air in and the cold air out. Insulate your water heater and hot water pipes.

Step 3: Circulate

Flip the switch on your ceiling fan when the weather turns cold and your fan will reverse, pulling cooler air up and pushing warmer air that has risen to the ceiling to the walls and down into the room.

Step 4: Deduct

Invest in an Energy Star-certified solar water heater. Tax credits for to 30% of the cost may still be available!

Step 5: Wear a sweater

Save the most on your energy bill by turning down the thermostat and donning a sweater to capture and retain body heat.

