



## JANUARY 2021

Whether you own a home or are looking to buy or sell one, here are some useful tips, ideas and advice. When you're ready to make your move, give me a call or drop me a line.

### HOMEBUYERS' ADVICE



#### THE MEANINGS BEHIND RED FRONT DOORS

Many cultures across the world use red front doors to communicate something about their beliefs or status. Since the first Passover, the red door has symbolized God's protection. Red doors can also symbolize the blood of Christ, which is why so many churches and cathedrals feature red doors.

In the Americas, settlers used red front doors to offer friendly shelter for weary travelers and their horses. By the Civil War, red front doors in the free Northern states were used by the Underground Railroad to signal safe houses for runaway slaves and other refugees.

Across the world, red doors in China say welcome, as is practiced by Feng Shui enthusiasts. The Chinese believe the color red brings health, harmony, happiness, positive energy and prosperity.

The Irish and Scottish had uses for red doors, too. When Queen Victoria died, the Irish were asked to paint their front doors black to signify mourning, but many rebelled and painted their doors bright colors, including red. Many Scots today paint their doors red to signal that their mortgages have been paid off.

Red doors don't hold much significance today, except as a statement color to convey a cheerful welcome to visitors.

### HOMEBUYERS' ADVICE



#### GET READY FOR COMPETITIVE SPRING HOMEBUYING

Pent-up housing demand is likely to increase exponentially now that a COVID-19 vaccine is on the horizon. Homebuyers should prepare for what could possibly be the most competitive spring homebuying season in years.

1. **Have a family meeting.** When your household is together, tell them about your reasons for buying a home - more space, better schools, etc. Ask each member, even the littlest child, to give their number one feature they'd like in a new home, such as a yard to play in.
2. **Get prequalified.** Your lender will tell you what you need to provide in terms of financial history, proof of income and source of down payment. The amount of your down payment and credit history will impact what kind of loan you can get as well as how much home you can afford.
3. **Start previewing online.** Homes you view online may sell quickly but you can get an idea of prices, neighborhoods, parks, transportation, schools, and more. Drive and research the areas that interest you.
4. **Work with your Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices network professional.** Once you've identified your target area and price range, he or she will go to work finding you the right home.



Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty  
**Jennifer Dawn**  
 Realtor  
 757-524-0417  
 jennifer.dawn@bhhstowne.com  
 jenniferdawnrealestate.com