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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



BUYING A HOME WITH BITCOIN

In April 2021, Bitcoin hit an all-time high in the price of its coins, virtual trader Coinbase went public with a valuation of \$86 billion, and Venmo, owned by PayPal, announced it's adding support for cryptocurrencies. All of these give access to customers who can now easily buy, sell and pay for items with cryptocurrencies for lower fees and more privacy than they currently get through payment processors, banks and merchants.

Coinbase.com explains that cryptocurrencies are simply decentralized monies to be used over the Internet. No governments, banks, companies or other entities are in charge of it, allowing anyone who wants to participate to be able to. Think of it as a virtual checkbook, with you in charge.

You can even turn your virtual coins into dollars, as one homebuyer did in Texas in 2017 using Bitpay at the seller's request. According to CNBC.com, all you need is for the buyer and seller "to agree on exchanging bitcoin for the property." All transactions are public and transparent through an open book technology called blockchain.

Customers who hold USDS coins can earn rewards, an alternative to a traditional savings account, says Coinbase, so start saving for your down payment now.

HOMEOWNERS' ADVICE



ALL ABOUT BIOPHILIC INTERIOR DESIGN

Architects and interior designers strive to create living spaces to make their clients happier. One approach is *biophilic design* which connects "occupants more closely to nature," according to Archdaily.com.

Biophilia is the affinity and love humans have for the natural world and its life forms. We're happier when we bring the outdoors inside, which explains the booming houseplant industry, reports Fastcompany.com. It's why we have house pets, wood floors, skylights and screened windows in our homes. We pay premiums for homes with views of oceans, lakes, mountains, and park-like lawns. Humans spend 90% of their time indoors, so we're happier, more focused, and healthier in a biophilic environment.

How can you add biophilic design to your environment? LifestyleAsia.com suggests that objects, materials, textures, colors, shapes, and sequences that mimic nature will stimulate visual, auditory, haptic, and olfactory connections to the natural world. Start with plenty of natural light. Add a water feature, such as a small entry fountain. Use walls to hang landscape paintings or botanical wallpaper. Add fragrant plants, flowers and candles with pine, lavender, and other soothing scents.

You'll soon see that furniture, art, décor and architecture can work together to create a peaceful haven for your home.



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