



ART & ALICIA's Electronic Newsletter

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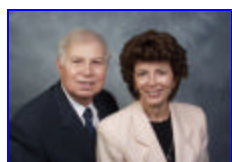
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[alicia fahey](#)

The median price of a home continued its run of double-digit price increases last month as buyers scrambled to purchase homes amid concerns of rising mortgage interest rates. Condominium resale prices continued to soar. The median condominium price was up 38.5 % to \$284,000. The median home price was \$442,000. It's no surprise that median resale prices rose to record levels. Inventory is critically low and interest rates are going up.



Every day is special when you're in a home that you love! A happy future begins with the decisions you make today. If you've been waiting for the right time to put your home on the market, start

The Location Factor

When moving to a new home, it is necessary to consider your lifestyle and how the purchase of this home will affect you. Whether you are just married and intending on having a family, empty nesters looking to scale down, or single and looking for a home in a young, vibrant community, you need to research your potential neighborhood.



Before you begin your home search, it is a good idea to review your plans for the future and make a list of the features you desire in your new community. For instance, do you like city life with all of its conveniences, a suburban neighborhood with tree-lined streets, or the privacy of the country? Know what you want and then begin to search for the perfect place.

The Web is a great place to start! Most large real estate organizations provide a "find a neighborhood" feature on their Web sites. This can allow you to conduct extensive research on any neighborhood to determine factors such as average age of the community, average house size, average home price, average lot size, nearby conveniences such as shops and services, and school information. Many towns, schools and merchants also have specific Web sites, which may be helpful. All this information will help you determine the perfect place for you.

While the Internet is a great tool for researching many aspects of buying a home, there are some things you need to do in person. If possible, visit the area personally in order to get a "feel" for the place. Most cities and towns have welcome centers; these are great resources of information. If you have plans that will require specific zoning or licenses, the town hall can provide information about local laws and ordinances.

Since purchasing a home is the biggest investment you may ever make, the more knowledge you have, the easier it is to make a decision about buying a house.

Pets on the Move

The moving process can be very stressful for your four-legged friends, as they have anxiety about leaving home too. Here are some helpful hints for moving your pet into a new home:

Check the Pet Out - Before you move, you may want to have your vet examine your pet and obtain refills on any necessary medications. You should also request the pet's medical records and locate a vet in your new hometown.

Packing Up - Although it may be difficult, try to keep your pets on the same routine, but keep them out of the way throughout the moving process.



Moving by Car - Your pet should not eat or drink a few hours before the move. Bring toys and other items to make them comfortable.

Long-Distance Moves - When moving by plane, book a direct flight, and ask your airline if they offer counter-to-counter service.

Once the journey is complete, it is important to make the adjustment easier on your pet. Some tips include:

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Settling In - Have your pet stay in a cage or restrict the areas where they can wander before letting them roam free. To reduce the potential for injury, keep them out of the way when moving in.

Orientation - To get your pet adjusted, place their food, water, and toys in a familiar-looking place. Walk a dog around the back yard, or find a place to sit and pet your cat and give them lots of love.

Think Child Safety



Moving into a new home with small children? Experts suggest getting down to the child's level

now. Call us and let's talk about getting the most out of your sale.

to see what potentially poses a threat, like electrical outlets, fireplaces, and sharp edges. Watch your children closely the first few weeks in the new house. They always manage to find the unexpected.

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