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ME ocean view

Economy still needs support

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said the economic recovery is not yet complete. For that reason the Fed intends to continue providing support to boost growth and improve labor market conditions. The Fed's twin goals are to promote maximum employment while keeping inflation under control.

Still a great time to jump into the real estate market.

**The biggest hurdles to homeownership
According to homeowners' survey**

- Rising prices
- Student loan debt
- Down payment
- Credit score/strict lending standards

No magic here — keep your credit score clean, pay down your debt and save some money. You've no doubt heard this advice your entire life.

There are still some great buys in the marketplace.



Multi-generational households reach record high

According to Pew Research Center, "After 3 decades of steady but measured growth, the arrangement of having multiple generations together under one roof spiked during the Great Recession of 2007-2009 and has kept on growing in the post-recession period." This accounts for nearly a quarter of young adults.

Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.

~Moshe Dayan



Condo hotels growing in popularity

This may be the way to purchase your vacation property to enjoy — leave the work to management. Hotelier Ian Schrager says “When you add condos to a hotel, the sum of the parts is more than the value of each individual component alone. They complement each other.” This model appeals to different types of investors.

7 things home buyers love but sellers don't list

Sellers often don't emphasize features that are very important to move-up buyers. Extra closets, pantries and other storage as well as built ins and book shelves are important. These spaces should be uncluttered. Low maintenance landscaping and proximity to amenities, attractions, schools, shopping are also sought after. Energy efficient and green lifestyle features are also popular in today's market.

Pets' amenities rising trend for homebuilders

Standard Pacific Homes based in Irvine CA is building and selling homes in 27 developments from Florida to California offering a pet suite as an option.



What is included in a 170 sq. ft pet suite? A step-in wash basin with handheld sprayer and leash lead; tile walks and floors; drying area with commercial sized pet dryer; water station; automated feeders; a large bunk-style bed; cabinets for toys, treats and food; a stackable washer and dryer; a French door that opens to a puppy run; and a flat screen television set. For cat owners things can be rearranged and swapped out, like a scratching post for the dryer.

Around 70% of families looking for a home have pets. Jeffrey Lake, VP at Standard Pacific says “Devotion to pets is second-to-none. They are family.”

Apps creating 'on demand' real estate services



New real estate apps are pairing consumers who want to tour listings they found online or while passing by with local agents prepared to show the homes immediately.

This is especially appealing to the millennial generation. As the economy grows, young adult incomes will start to rise and their ability to qualify for a mortgage will improve.

According to Daniel McCue, research manager of the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University “Ultimately, the large millennial generation will make their presence felt in the owner-occupied market.”