

July Newsletter



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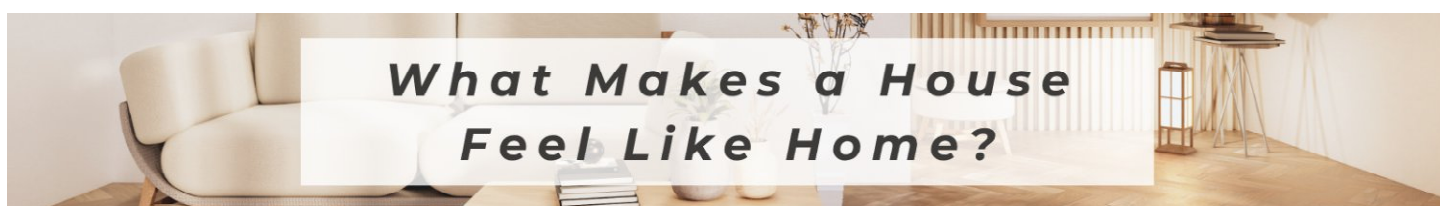
Celia Manley Properties

buy. sell. live.



“July is hollyhocks and hammocks, fireworks and vacations, hot and steamy weather, cool and refreshing swims, beach picnics, and vegetables all out of the garden

~Jean Hersey



As a real estate agent, I've walked through hundreds of homes over the years. Some are beautifully updated with all the latest features, while others are more modest and simple. Yet one thing I've noticed is that the homes people remember most aren't necessarily the biggest or most expensive. They're the ones that feel like home.

That feeling is hard to define, but most of us know it when we experience it. It's the sense of comfort you get when you walk through the front door and instantly feel at ease. It's the collection of memories, routines, and personal touches that make a house uniquely yours.

Many homeowners spend years thinking they need to finish one more project before their home feels complete. The reality is that a home doesn't have to be perfect to be welcoming. Often, it's the little things that create the biggest impact.

Family photos displayed on a wall, a favorite chair that's been in the family for years, books you've collected over time, or artwork that brings back special memories can instantly make a space feel more personal. These details tell your story and remind you of the people and experiences that matter most.

Comfort plays an important role as well. Soft blankets, warm lighting, fresh flowers on the kitchen table, and spaces designed for gathering with family and friends help create an environment where people want to spend time. These aren't expensive upgrades. They're simple choices that make everyday life a little more enjoyable.

I've also found that homeowners are often happiest when they stop trying to make their home look like someone else's and instead focus on creating a space that reflects their own personality. The homes that stand out are usually the ones filled with meaningful items, not necessarily the ones that follow every design trend.

Whether you've lived in your home for twenty years or moved in recently, summer is a great time to look around and think about what makes your space feel special. Maybe it's finally hanging those family photos sitting in a box, displaying souvenirs from a memorable trip, or creating a cozy corner where you can relax after a long day.

At the end of the day, a house provides shelter. A home provides comfort, connection, and a place where life's best memories are made. That's something no square footage number can measure.

CAPRESE CHICKEN PASTA SALAD

Salad Ingredients:

- 1 pound boneless skinless chicken tenders
- 1 pound short-cut pasta
- 2 cups mozzarella balls (use marinated, if you can find)
- 2 cups cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves, torn
- Fresh basil, chopped
- 1 avocado, diced

Balsamic Dressing

- 2/3 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/3 cup balsamic vinegar
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 1 shallot, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh oregano
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
- kosher salt, black pepper, and red pepper flakes

Directions:

- To make the dressing. Combine all ingredients in a glass jar and whisk until smooth. Taste and adjust the salt and pepper.
- In a bowl, toss the chicken with 1/3 of the dressing. Let it sit 10 minutes or marinate up to overnight. Set your grill, grill pan, or skillet to medium-high heat. Grill the chicken until lightly charred and cooked through, turning halfway through cooking, about 8-10 minutes.
- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Boil the pasta to al dente, according to package directions. Drain. Add the pasta, chicken, mozzarella, tomatoes, and avocado to a large salad bowl. Pour over the remaining dressing and toss well to combine. Serve warm or cold. The salad will develop more flavor as it sits.



Half Baked Harvest

Small Home Projects That Make a Big Difference.

One of the biggest misconceptions about home improvement is that every project has to be a major undertaking. While kitchen remodels and bathroom renovations certainly get attention, some of the most satisfying improvements are the small projects that can be completed in an hour or less.

As homeowners, it's easy to get overwhelmed by a growing list of things we'd like to update. The good news is that meaningful progress often comes from tackling the simple projects first.

For example, updating cabinet hardware can completely change the look of a kitchen or bathroom without the cost of replacing cabinets. Swapping out dated knobs and pulls for something more modern is a quick project that can make a room feel refreshed almost instantly.

Another easy win is improving your entryway. The front door is one of the first things guests notice, and a little attention can go a long way. Cleaning the door, touching up paint, adding a new welcome mat, or placing a potted plant nearby can create a more inviting first impression.

Lighting is another area that's frequently overlooked. Replacing outdated bulbs, adding a lamp to a dark corner, or updating a light fixture can dramatically change the atmosphere of a room. Good lighting makes spaces feel warmer, brighter, and more welcoming.

Even simple maintenance tasks deserve attention. Replacing HVAC filters, touching up scuffed paint, tightening loose hardware, and cleaning neglected areas can help your home feel well cared for while preventing small issues from becoming larger problems.

Summer is the perfect season to tackle a few of these quick projects. You don't need an entire weekend or a large budget to make a difference. Sometimes spending just an hour improving your home can leave you feeling accomplished and help you appreciate the space you already have a little more.

Blessor House



If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers. We are happy to work with them and cooperate fully.

