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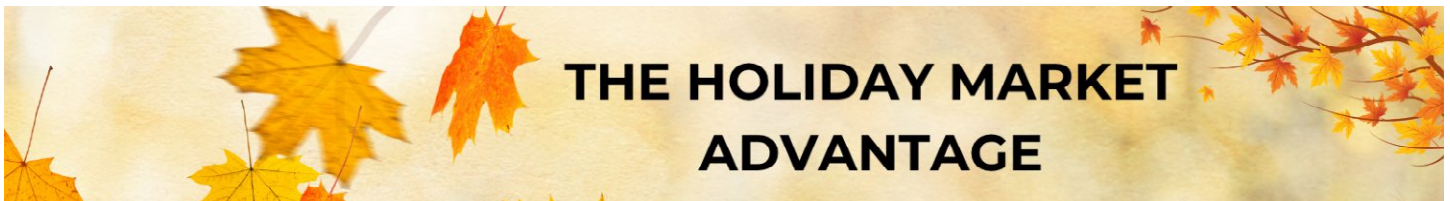
Celia Manley Properties

buy. sell. live.



November is tied together with the heartstrings of gratitude.

~Charmaine J. Forde



When people think about real estate, spring and summer usually come to mind as the "busy season." But the truth is, the holidays can be a great time to make a move. While the market does slow down this time of year, that shift often creates opportunities worth paying attention to.

For Buyers

With fewer people shopping for homes in November and December, competition is lighter. That often means less chance of bidding wars and more space to negotiate. Sellers who list during the holidays usually have a reason for doing so, and that motivation can translate into more favorable terms for you.

For Sellers

Because many homeowners wait until spring to list, there is less inventory this time of year. That gives your home a better chance to stand out with motivated buyers who are serious about making a purchase. Homes tend to feel especially inviting during the holidays, with thoughtful décor, warm lighting, and a clean entryway, which often leave a lasting impression.

For Past Clients and Homeowners

Even if a move isn't in your plans, the holiday market can still be interesting to watch. Keeping an eye on activity helps you stay informed about your home and provides helpful insights for friends or family who may be considering a move.

The Bottom Line

The holidays bring a different rhythm to real estate, but they also bring opportunity. Whether you are thinking about buying, selling, or simply staying informed, now is a good time to check in and make sure your plans align with the market.

CBS News



Thanksgiving is an opportunity to pause and celebrate the season's harvest and the blessings of the past year. It's a holiday rooted in gathering with family and friends, sharing a festive meal, and taking time to appreciate the simple joys that make life meaningful. I hope this Thanksgiving brings you comfort, connection, and plenty of reasons to feel thankful.

INSIDE-OUT PUMPKIN MUFFINS



Ingredients

Topping

- 1/2 cup (60g) Unbleached All-Purpose Flour
- 1/4 cup (53g) light brown sugar or dark brown sugar, packed
- 1/4 cup (23g) rolled oats, old-fashioned or quick-cooking
- 1/8 teaspoon table salt
- 4 tablespoons (57g) butter, room temperature

- 1 cup (227g) pumpkin purée
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 cup (106g) light brown sugar or dark brown sugar, packed
- 3 tablespoons (35g) vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup (85g) boiled cider (for best flavor), dark corn syrup, or honey

Filling

- one 8-ounce package (227g) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1/4 cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon Pure Vanilla Extract

Muffins

- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/3 cup (74g) milk
- 1 1/2 cups (180g) Unbleached All-Purpose Flour

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F. Line a 12-cup muffin pan with papers and grease.

2. Streusel: Whisk flour, sugar, oats, and salt. Cut in butter until coarse crumbs form; set aside.

3. Filling: Soften cream cheese if needed, then stir in sugar and vanilla.

4. Batter: Whisk together pumpkin, eggs, brown sugar, oil, boiled cider, salt, spices, baking powder, baking soda, and milk. Scrape bowl sides and bottom. Add flour, mix until combined, scraping and beating briefly.

5. Fill each muffin cup with ~2 tablespoons batter. Add ~1 tablespoon filling, then top with another ~2 tablespoons batter. Sprinkle streusel over each.

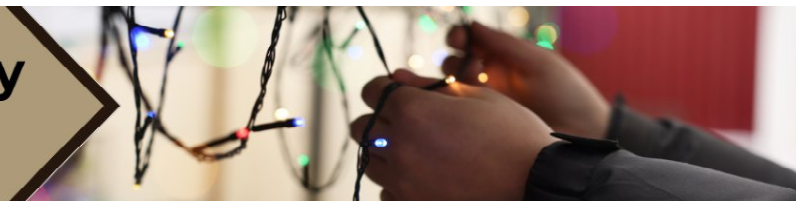
6. Bake 18-20 minutes, testing near the edge (not in the filling) for doneness.

7. Cool muffins briefly in the pan, then transfer to a rack.

8. Serve within 2 to 3 hours, refrigerate up to 3 days, or freeze up to 3 weeks. Rewarm in a 350 F oven (tented with foil) or briefly in the microwave on low.

King Arthur Baking

Holiday Home Safety Tips



The holidays bring a special energy into our homes. From twinkling lights to festive gatherings, this season is meant to be enjoyed. It is also a good reminder that a few safety precautions can go a long way in keeping both your home and family protected.

Check Decorations Before Use

Lights, cords, and ornaments should all be inspected before going up. Replace anything with frayed wires, broken sockets, or cracks. It may seem like a small detail, but catching a faulty strand now could prevent a fire or accident later.

Be Mindful With Candles

Candles create a cozy atmosphere, but they are also a common source of holiday house fires. Flameless versions are a safe alternative. If you do use traditional candles, keep them away from anything flammable and always blow them out before leaving a room.

Keep Children and Pets in Mind

Fragile ornaments, small decorative pieces, and certain seasonal plants can be hazards. Place breakables higher on the tree and choose décor that won't cause harm if it's knocked over or chewed on.

Pay Attention to the Fireplace

If your holiday season includes a fire in the hearth, make sure the chimney is clear and the screen is in place. Decorations on the mantel should be kept a safe distance from flames or heat.

Plan Ahead When Traveling

Many families travel during the holidays, which makes home security just as important as safety inside the home. Light timers, a neighbor collecting your mail, and keeping deliveries off the porch can help deter unwanted attention.

Be Prepared for Emergencies

Smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, and an evacuation plan are often overlooked during the holidays. Taking a moment to review them ensures everyone in the household knows what to do if something unexpected happens.

Final Note

The holidays should be about enjoying your home, not worrying about it. Whether you are hosting friends, preparing to sell, or simply enjoying a quiet season, keeping safety in mind protects both your home and the memories made inside it. Wishing you a season that is not only joyful, but safe as well.

Statefarm



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