

LONG BEACH Real Estate CORNER



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When is it Time to Downsize or Upsize?



If you've reached a point where your current home no longer meets your needs, you have a couple of options. You can either downsize, upsize, or modify your current living space. People's lives are constantly changing, so it's completely normal if you decide your space doesn't fit your current lifestyle. Here are some tell-tale signs it's time to downsize or upsize:

3 Signs it's Time to Downsize

1. You're Not Using All of Your Space - At one point, you may have needed those extra bedrooms, a large backyard, and multiple living spaces. But, if they're now rarely used and turning into storage, it's likely time to downsize. Downsizing to a smaller home may help lower your costs so you won't be paying for unused space anymore.

2. Maintenance Is Overwhelming - Are you having a difficult time keeping up with cleaning, lawn care or home repairs? Maintaining a larger home can turn into a huge undertaking as you get older. Downsizing to a smaller, more manageable property can ease your stress and save you time so you can spend it doing things you love.

3. You've Retired - As you enter retirement, your lifestyle and housing needs may change. You may not be tied down to one location anymore or you may want to be closer to your family and friends in another area. Retirement may mean that you have more flexibility to travel and pursue your interests and hobbies.

3 Signs it's Time to Upsize

1. You've Outgrown Your Home - Do you feel like your rooms are cluttered and that there's not enough space for your growing family? It might be time to consider upsizing your home. Signs that you've outgrown your home could include lack of space for furniture, overcrowding in bedrooms, and insufficient storage space.

2. You Need More Functional Space - Sometimes life changes happen and you need more functional space in your home like a dedicated office or a larger kitchen. It may be time to make a move if you know that having more functional space would make your life easier and more enjoyable.

3. You Can Afford a Move - Many people who have owned their home for two years or longer have had a significant growth in home equity, which can be helpful when upsizing. If you're wondering if you can afford a larger home, we recommend connecting with an experienced lender to help you explore your options.

When it comes down to making a decision, you should choose what's best for you, for your finances and your lifestyle. If you'd like to talk about your current living situation to determine if downsizing or upsizing is right for you, text us or give us a call at 562.896.2456.

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Sold for \$795,000



4399 Levelside Avenue
Single-family home
in Lakewood

Sold for \$895,000



1457 Park Avenue
Spanish-style home near
Traffic Circle



Timing Your Home Sale and Purchase

It can seem daunting if you need to sell your home and purchase a new one at the same time, but it doesn't have to be with the right preparation. If you'd like tips for timing your home sale and purchase to make the process as smooth as possible, scan the QR code to watch a recent episode of our Selling With Shannon series, *Timing Your Home Sale and Purchase*.



Why You Should Put Your Home in a Trust

If something were to happen to you, do you have a plan for your property? Putting your home in a trust has numerous benefits, not only for you, but for your family. Here are some reasons why you **should** put your home in a trust:

Prevents Probate: When someone passes away, their assets typically go through a legal process called probate, where a court oversees the distribution of their assets according to the will. This process can be time-consuming, expensive, and can tie up assets for months or even years. By placing your home in a trust, you can avoid probate altogether and ensure that your beneficiaries receive your assets quickly and efficiently.

Protection from creditors: If you're concerned about potential creditors seizing your assets, placing your home in a trust can provide some protection. When you put your home in a trust, you transfer legal ownership of the property to the trust, which can make it more difficult for creditors to go after your assets.

Control over distribution: A trust allows you to specify how your assets should be distributed. You can set specific conditions or requirements that your beneficiaries must meet before they can



receive their share of the assets, such as reaching a certain age or achieving specific milestones.

Overall, placing your home in a trust provides security and can save your loved ones from going through the complex probate process. If you have any questions about putting your home in a trust or if you'd like a referral to an attorney who can handle that, give us a call at 562.896.2456.

5 Small Upgrades That Make a Big Impact



Many people think large upgrades are needed to give their home a new look, but that's not the case. You'd be surprised at how a few small upgrades can transform your home. Here are some small and cost effective upgrades you can make to improve your home:

1. Upgrading your lighting can make a big difference in the ambiance and mood of your home. Consider replacing outdated or dim lighting fixtures with new ones that offer more light.
2. A fresh coat of paint can transform a room and make it feel fresh and inviting. Neutral colors are always recommended if you're thinking of selling your home in the next 5 years.
3. Swapping out old hardware, such as doorknobs, cabinet

handles, and drawer pulls, can give your home a modern and cohesive look. Choose hardware that matches your decor and style, and you'll be surprised at the impact it can make.

4. The right window treatments can enhance your home's style and provide privacy and insulation. Upgrade to curtains or blinds that match your decor and provide the right amount of light and shade.

5. Adding a few plants to your home can bring life and color to any room. Not only do they purify the air, but they also add a sense of calm and tranquility. Choose plants that are easy to care for, such as succulents or snake plants, and watch your home come to life.

For more home tips, check out our blog at: [showmehome.com/blog/](https://www.showmehome.com/blog/)

Spring 2023 Buyer and Seller Guides

Our NEW Spring Buyer and Seller Guides are here!



Access them by scanning the QR codes.



Buyer Guide



Seller Guide

Local Spotlight:

The Perfect Day on Catalina Island

On Catalina Island you'll feel like you're miles away from home on a tropical vacation, without the lengthy travel time. It's truly the perfect place to unplug and take a break from your everyday responsibilities. Here's what the perfect day looks like on Catalina Island:

8:15am - Arrive at the Catalina Landing in Downtown Long Beach and prepare to board the Catalina Express. It's a quick 45 minute ferry ride from the Long Beach port to Avalon and tickets are generally \$42.00 each way.

9:15am - Arrive in Avalon and grab a quick coffee and bite to eat at Catalina Coffee & Cookie Co. They serve delicious coffee drinks and breakfast all day.

10:00am - Browse the adorable boutique shops adjacent to Crescent Avenue, which the locals call "Front Street". There, you'll find clothing, jewelry, souvenirs, and collectible shops.



11:00am to 2:00pm - Arrive at the Descanso Beach club and get ready to experience ultimate relaxation. Check in and you'll be guided to your private chaise rental (reservations must be made in advance) on this gorgeous private beach. Here, you'll be waited on all day with drinks and delicious food. You can also go swimming and snorkeling in the ocean which is just a few steps away. Book your reservation at visitcatalinaisland.com/things-to-do/descanso-beach-club/.

3:00pm - Head over to Catalina Island Golf Cart Rentals and Tours to rent your own private golf cart. This is a great way to see most of Catalina Island, in a short amount of time. They offer maps so you can cruise by all of the most popular attractions on the island.

4:30pm - It's just about time for drinks or an early dinner! Bluewater Avalon is a lovely place with a waterfront patio. The restaurant has a laid-back, nautical atmosphere and they serve fresh caught seafood. You can also book a table on their website bluewatergrill.com/location/catalina-island/.

6:30pm - Hop on the Catalina Express at the Avalon pier to head back to Long Beach.

After a day filled with both exploring and relaxing, we hope you arrive back in Long Beach feeling rejuvenated.



4 Things to Do Now To Buy a Home Next Year

If you're planning to buy a home next year, there are several things you can do now to prepare yourself for the process. Here are four things you should consider doing:

1. Start saving for a down payment: Depending on the type of home you are interested in buying and the location, the down payment can range from 3% to 20% of the home's purchase price.

2. Check your credit score and improve it if needed: Your credit score is an important factor that lenders consider when deciding whether to approve you for a mortgage and what interest rate to offer you. Look up your credit score and if it's not where you want it to be, take steps to improve it.

3. Research neighborhoods and homes: Start researching neighborhoods and homes in your desired location to get a better idea of what you can afford. Also, consider teaming up with a real estate agent who's an expert in the neighborhood you're thinking of buying a home in.

4. Get pre-approved for a mortgage: Getting pre-approved for a mortgage can give you a better idea of how much you can afford to spend on a home and can also make you a more attractive buyer to sellers.

If you have any questions about the home buying process, we're happy to help. Give us a call at 562.896.2456.





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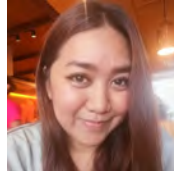
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How to Get Started on a Container Garden

A container garden is a convenient way to grow plants in limited space, whether you have a small balcony, a patio, or a windowsill. But, how do you get started? Here are some tips:

Determine the Right Location -

Most plants require a lot of sunlight, so you should choose a spot that gets at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day. You should also consider the climate and temperature in your area and make sure the location you choose is suitable for the types of plants you want to grow.

Select Your Plants - Decide what type of plants you'd like to grow and what they will be used for. Are there any herbs or vegetables you use often that would be convenient to have on hand?

You can also select dwarf varieties of plants, which are ideal for small spaces. Make sure to select plants that have similar water and sunlight requirements.

Choose Your Containers - Once you've determined what you want to grow, the next step is to find a container your plants will be happy in. Containers come in various shapes, sizes, and materials, such as plastic, clay, metal, or ceramic. Make sure the container has good drainage to prevent waterlogging.



Spring Home Selling Checklist

As you prepare to sell your home, add these items to your to-do list to make your home appealing to potential home buyers:

Make it Inviting

- Open blinds or curtains to let natural light in
- Check lightbulbs and replace as needed
- Take down personal items and photos
- Give every room a clear purpose

Show It's Cared for

- Clean your vents and baseboards
- Vacuum, mop, or sweep floors
- Declutter throughout
- Touch up paint scuffs

Boost Curb Appeal

- Power wash outdoor surfaces
- Clean the windows (inside and out)
- Tidy up the landscaping
- Replace your house numbers

Call The Shannon Jones Team

If you'd like to get started on the home selling process, text or give us a call at 562.896.2456.

