



*Melanie DeHaven's...*

# Service For Life!

*"Insider Tips For Healthy, Wealthy & Happy Living..."*

*Buying A Home Soon-for the first time? Get my Free Consumer Guide, "Top 10 First-Time Homebuyer Mistakes to Avoid." ...Call me right now at 843-343-7640 for details.*

**January 2026**

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## Recall? No Problem!

From food to electronics, furniture, cars and even toys, at some point most of us will have something that has been recalled. Recalls are issued when something has been deemed unsafe, or in violation of a regulation, and the manufacturer asks consumers to return that item for replacement or a refund.

The website [recalls.gov](http://recalls.gov) is a good resource for the most current information regarding recalls. Additional resources include [SaferProducts.gov](http://SaferProducts.gov), maintained by the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and [FoodSafetyNews.com](http://FoodSafetyNews.com) for all food recalls.

If something you own is recalled, what is the best way to deal with it? These tips will help guide you through the recall process, and what you may be entitled to.

- **Stop Using the Item:** If a food item is recalled, stop eating it immediately. Similarly, if a product is recalled, stop using it immediately.
- **Check for Compensation:** The recall notice should indicate whether the recalled item will be repaired, replaced, or if you will receive a refund. If it's not clear, a quick visit to the websites above should help you determine the facts.
- **Food Recall:** If a food item in your kitchen has been recalled, simply return it to the store where you bought it and ask for an exchange or a refund; in most cases, a receipt is not necessary. Of course, you can just toss it, too.
- **Product Recall:** Like food, you can take the item back to the store from which you bought it and ask for an exchange (for a non-recalled version) or a refund. You shouldn't need a receipt, but that depends on manufacturer.
- **Vehicle Recall:** Find your VIN number (it's on your dashboard near the driver's side of the window). If you received a mailed notice, it should tell you where you can check to see if your specific car is involved in the recall. If it is, take your vehicle to the dealership to have the recalled item resolved.

### Warning Before You Sell Your Home...

Don't put your home on the market without my Free Consumer Guide titled, "*How To Avoid 7 Costly Mistakes When Selling Your Home.*" My exclusive report will give you all the facts for a fast, top dollar sale. Get your free copy by calling me at...**843-343-7640**

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## Word Of The Month...

Studies have shown your income and wealth are directly related to the size and depth of your vocabulary. Here is this month's word, so you can impress your friends (and maybe even fatten your wallet!)...

**Winsome** (win-sum) adjective

**Meaning:** cheerful, lighthearted

**Sample Sentence:** Her winsome personality made her a joy to work with.

## Did You Know?

We know the old adage that no two snowflakes are alike, but did you know that each is made up of about 200 ice crystals and have six sides? And though they look like they effortlessly float through the sky, snowflakes actually fall at a rate of speed of 3 to 4 miles per hour.

## Have A Chuckle

What do you call a line of men waiting to get a haircut?

*A barber-queue*

## Clean A Lampshade

No matter how often we clean the house, it's easy to overlook the lampshades scattered throughout. Here, easy ways to clean them quickly and effectively.

-Unplug the lamp, remove the shade and remember to wipe the lightbulb.

-Next, use a feather duster or microfiber cloth to gently lift the dust.

-Shades with pleats are easily cleaned using an electric duster or a new paintbrush.

## Quotes To Live By...

"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born... and the day you find out why."

—Mark Twain, writer

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"

—Martin Luther King, Jr., activist

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated."

—Maya Angelou, poet

# Surprising Reasons For Dry Skin

When the weather cools, many of us find ourselves slathering on the lotion to combat dry skin. Though colder temperatures and dry air do cause our skin to dry out, so do some surprising health conditions.

- A vitamin or mineral deficiency can cause extremely dry skin.
- Smoking ages our skin, which in turn causes it to become drier.
- Dry skin can sometimes be a sign of an underlying medical condition like diabetes, thyroid or kidney disease.
- Food allergies can also dry out our skin.
- Medications like statins (cholesterol), retinol (acne), or diuretics (high blood pressure) may cause dry skin.

If you notice your skin is drier than usual, keep an eye out for particularly dry areas, itchiness, or rough patches. It is also a good idea to talk with your doctor to see if there are any underlying health concerns that could be the root cause.

## Would You Like To Know How Much Your Neighbor's Home Listed Or Sold For?

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much your home is worth. Either way, I can help...with no "sales pitches" or run-arounds. Call me at **843-343-7640** and I'll give you all the facts.

# Friendships For Health

Henry Ford once said, "My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." But our friendships do so much more; they're good for our health, too.

Research shows that healthy friendships – those that are positive, consistent and vulnerable – can lower our risks of many health issues, keep anxiety at bay, and protect us from the negative effects of stress. Meaningful friendships can also combat feelings of loneliness, which can manifest in headaches, fatigue and nausea. In fact, these friendships have been identified as one of the leading predictors of a long, healthy and satisfying life.

While experts say that most of us are happy with three to five very close friends, we also benefit from interactions with acquaintances and even strangers. So go ahead, have a quick chat with the barista at your local coffee shop. It's good for you!

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## Brain Teaser...

What's something that belongs to you, but others seem to use it more than you?

(see pg. 4)

## Real Estate Question?

Maybe you want to know how much your home is worth. Or maybe you just need a recommendation for a handyman, carpet cleaner or plumber...Either way, I love hearing from all of my good friends and clients. And I'm happy to help answer questions you might have about anything relating to real estate or home-ownership. If you have a question, tip or idea, call me at **843-343-7640**. I'm here to help!

## Quickly De-Ice A Windshield

When it's cold outside, the last thing you want to do is stand out there scraping your car's windshield. Use these tips instead:

- Start the car and turn the heater on, and defrost setting on high.
- Mix 2/3 cup of rubbing alcohol and 1/3 cup of water in a spray bottle to store in the car; it won't freeze! For heavy ice built up, spray lightly, wait a moment and use the wipers to clear.

## New Sport?

Have you heard of the new sport called quiet tennis?

*It's like normal tennis but without the racket.*

## Sleep Wellness Websites

A good night's sleep boosts overall wellness. These websites can help make the most of your shut-eye.

[www.sleepfoundation.org](http://www.sleepfoundation.org) – Expert reviews of pillows, mattresses, bedding and more.

[www.thensf.org](http://www.thensf.org) – Easy to follow guidelines for better sleep.

[www.sleepeducation.org](http://www.sleepeducation.org) – Determine your ideal bedtime and keep a sleep diary.

# Get Fenced In, Without Breaking The Bank

Whether it's time to replace an existing fence or if you're starting fresh in your yard, you may be surprised when the quotes come rolling in. Just how much for sheets of vinyl or slabs of wood?

Depending on the type of fence you have in mind, pricing can range from about \$1,500 to upwards of \$13,000, depending on materials, height and length, and any additional bells and whistles. Luckily, there are many options and you should be able to find one that fits your budget.

- **Split Rail:** If your idea for a fence is more about defining space than for privacy, consider installing a split rail fence. Not only does a split rail fence keep costs down, but it is not as restrictive and opens up sight lines.
- **Bamboo:** For a bit more privacy, a bamboo panel fence could be the solution. Sheets of bamboo can be attached to posts without too much fuss.
- **Pallet:** Scope out the delivery areas of your local stores to see if there are any discarded pallets you can repurpose for a fence. Not only are they an affordable alternative, they're trendy, too.
- **Lattice:** Another affordable DIY option is installing lattice work to act as a fence so long as you attach them to something sturdy.
- **Natural Fence:** If you do not need to keep animals or kids constrained, consider planning a natural fence using shrubs and bushes. Not only will you define your space, but you'll enjoy the greenery.



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## Thanks For Thinking of Me!

Did you know I can help you or any of your friends or family save time and money when buying or selling a home? Thanks for keeping me in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word about my services.

## Brain Teaser Answer:

Your name

## Old Year's Resolutions?

Traditionally, we make New Year's resolutions at the beginning of the year, intentions to better ourselves in some way. But when and where did that tradition begin? You may be surprised - as long as 4,000 years ago! In ancient times, the Babylonians "made promises to the gods to pay their debts and return any objects they had borrowed." If they kept their promises, they believed the gods would favor them throughout the year. The Romans began a similar tradition in 46 B.C.E.

## Long Fear

There are over 500 documented kinds of phobias, many with interesting names - all ending in *-phobia* which means 'fear' in Greek. Claustrophobia, fear of tight spaces, is a common one, but have you heard of hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia? It's the fear of long words!

**THANK YOU** for reading my Service For Life!® personal newsletter. I wanted to produce a newsletter that has great content and is fun and valuable to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

**AND...**whether you're thinking of buying, selling or financing real estate, or just want to stop by and say "Hi," I'd love to hear from you...

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**Carolina Elite Real Estate**  
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this letter is intended for informational purposes. It should not substitute as legal, accounting, investment, medical or other professional services advice. Always seek a competent professional for answers to your specific questions. This letter is not intended to solicit real estate properties currently for sale.

## "Who Else Wants To Win A Gift Card of Choice!?"

Guess who won last month's Trivia Question? I'm pleased to announce the lucky winner of last month's quiz. And the winner is...drum roll please: You was the first person to correctly answer my quiz question.

### What animal hibernates longest?

a) Bear b) Sloth c) Koala d) Snail

The answer is d) Snails can hibernate up to three years, and hibernate in both cold and hot weather. Bears, on the other hand, can hibernate in their distinct way for up to eight months, while koalas and sloths don't hibernate at all. So let's move on to *this* month's trivia question.

### What is the most common street name in the United States?

a) Main Street b) First Street c) Central Avenue d) Second Street

**Call Me At 843-343-7640 OR Email Me At mdehavenrealestate@gmail.com And You Could Be One Of My Next Winners!**

## Real Estate Corner...

### Q: What Factors Do I Need To Consider When Selling A Home?

**A:** Finding the right price point is the first consideration. You don't want to price your home too high or too low. The balance of the home should be paid with the money from the sale and you'll want to make a profit to help with your next home purchase.

**Make sure you are ready.** You should be able to afford to get your house sale-ready as well as to make the move to a new home. The time of year can also make a difference in how quickly you can sell - spring and summer are better times to put your home on the market because people have more free time to look at houses.

**Consider the condition of the home.** You may need to make upgrades or repair cosmetic defects. Remember, many homebuyers may not be able to get past the look of your home if there are major issues. If your home is outdated, bringing in fresh appliances, new paint, and making exterior repairs can improve first impressions and increase the value of your home.

**Having great exposure is necessary for selling your home.** The right homebuyers will want what your home has to offer and be able to afford the price. Your realtor will employ professional marketing tactics such as open houses, signage, MLS listings, and website exposure to ensure the perfect buyers see your home.

For definitions of these terms and more financing tips, ask for my Free Consumer Report called **"7 Costly Mistakes When Selling Your Home."** I'll send a copy right to you. Call me at **843-343-7640**.

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