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# Between FRIENDS



Experience isn't expensive....its priceless!!!  
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The days are getting shorter, the nights are growing longer, and autumn is in the air. Call me today for helpful tips on preparing your home for Old Man Winter.



As a real estate professional, I know the anxiety that a home system or appliance breakdown can create for a home seller during the listing period or for the buyer after close-of-sale. Fortunately, you can eliminate that stress with a home warranty that provides coverage for both the seller and the buyer!

A Home Warranty Plan is a service contract that protects your home's major systems and appliances for a specified period of time. Should a failure occur during the term of the Plan, a qualified contractor is dispatched to repair or replace the covered item for a nominal service call fee. Help is only a phone call away, 24/7, 365 days a year!

For complete peace of mind, I recommend an **Old Republic Home Protection Plan** for all of my clients. Call me today for more information on how a home warranty can benefit you.

I give my clients 100% because I want to make every transaction as smooth and stress-free as possible. If you have real estate needs, or know someone who does, call me today!



## Health & Safety

### Have a Happy (and Safe) Halloween!

The world has changed since you were a wee one, but the magic of Halloween is timeless. One night a year, your kids transform into someone else entirely—and witches, vampires, pirates, and ballerinas scour the streets in search of tasty treats. Help them enjoy a safe, healthy, and happy Halloween with the following tips.

**Light the way:** Whether trick-or-treating in a bustling city or a small town, it's always a good idea to carry a flashlight to avoid stumbling in the dark.

**Make-up smarts:** Apply make-up to a small area of skin before applying the whole shebang to make sure your child won't have an allergic reaction. Always remove make-up before tucking them into bed.



**Get the Mom or Dad stamp of approval:** Make sure young kids know the drill and they can repeat it back to you—never eat candy before Mom or Dad has checked it for tampering. Also, if you serve them a hearty meal before they start trick-or-treating, they won't be tempted to eat any of the loot along the way.

**Masks and props:** Make sure that eye holes on masks are wide enough for your children to access their peripheral vision. If their costumes contain props, such as a sword or a wand, make sure the edges are rounded and smooth.

## Helpful Hints

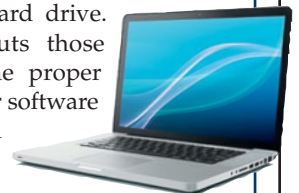
### Get Your PC up to Speed

Does the old PC feel like it's stuck in the mud these days? Employ the following simple procedures on a weekly basis to optimize your computer's performance. Visit [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com) to view step-by-step instructions for your specific version of Windows.

**Run Check Disk:** Each time your computer crashes, it can create hard drive errors that will slow down your computer. The *Check Disk* program is a tool that comes with your operating system. It will fix those errors and speed things up.

**Run Disk Cleanup:** As you surf the web, your computer creates temporary files that can bog down your system over time. Windows *Disk Cleanup* will delete these files for you.

**Defragment your hard drive:** Ever wondered what it really means to have a fragmented file? Your computer stores bits and pieces of files in different sectors on your hard drive. Defragmenting puts those pieces back in the proper order, making your software applications run faster.





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Please check out my website [www.SoniaAmin.com](http://www.SoniaAmin.com) for more real estate information and links. Also, please sign up for a free listing book account under the property search tab and you can search for properties in the area or just keep track of what is happening in your neighborhood. If I can be of assistance to you or anyone you know, please let me know. Keep in touch and Best Wishes...Sonia E. Amin – 22 Years of Real Estate experience.

## Savor the Flavor

### Stuffed Bell Peppers

1	lb.	ground beef	1/2	tsp.	salt
4		bell peppers	1/4	tsp.	pepper
3/4	cup	chopped onion	1	can	(14 1/2 oz.)
1/4	cup	uncooked rice			Italian-style stewed
3	tbsp.	catsup			tomatoes, undrained
1	tsp.	dried oregano leaves, divided			

1. Cut tops off bell peppers; remove seeds and membrane.
2. Combine ground beef, onion, rice, 2 tbsp. catsup, 1/2 tsp. oregano, salt, and pepper; mix lightly.
3. Spoon meat mixture into each bell pepper.
4. Combine tomatoes, remaining catsup, and oregano; pour over stuffed peppers.
5. Cover in baking dish with foil. Bake at 350° F for 90 minutes.

## Household Tips

### Practical Feng Shui

Chinese martial arts, acupuncture, and Feng Shui are all based on the ancient belief that an invisible energy known as Chi flows throughout everything and everyone. Even if you are a skeptic, you can appreciate the Feng Shui aesthetic because good housekeeping isn't reserved for Tai Chi masters.

Start your practical Feng Shui makeover by clearing out clutter. Feng Shui consultant Rodika Tchi says, "Anything you do not use, do not like, or do not have a place for... is clutter." Be fearless!

Next, add some greenery to your home. NASA research just so happens to back up what Feng Shui practitioners have been saying for thousands of years. Certain houseplants, such as an Areca Palm, English Ivy, and Ficus Alii, can remove pollutants from the air and purify your living space.



Finally, boost the quality of light in your home by using full-spectrum bulbs. These lights imitate sunlight without all the harmful ultra violet rays that damage skin. This is especially helpful if you're prone to seasonal affective disorder—or even just the winter blues.

## Real Estate Today



### Real Estate Agents Help Homebuyers Make Solid Investments

Home ownership is one of the most significant investments that anyone will make over the course of a lifetime. Simply stated, you want a professional by your side. The National Association of REALTORS® puts it this way—if you had a six figure tax question, wouldn't you seek the advice of a qualified accountant?

Licensed real estate agents can help you review financing options and determine what you're able to afford in a given market. They can help buyers discover under-advertised properties that might sell below market value, and they will negotiate on your behalf to get you the best possible price. During the evaluation period, an agent helps ensure due diligence, so you aren't stuck with costly repairs that come as a surprise only after you've signed on the dotted line.

When it comes to a financial and emotional investment of this magnitude, a licensed real estate professional is vital to protecting your interests and saving you time, money, effort, and peace of mind.