

The Good Life

Ideas for living purposefully and maximizing your real estate investments.

March 2016



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WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION

Welcome to the 2nd edition of "The Good Life", a newsletter for sharing ideas about living purposefully, maximizing your God-given resources, and focusing on current trends and information on the real estate market on North Whidbey and Fidalgo Island. This edition looks at another idea from "The Law of Happiness", and highlights important information about the housing shortage in Oak Harbor. I hope you find this inspiring and informative.

YOUR HABITS
CAN INCREASE
YOUR LEVEL OF
HAPPINESS
BY 40%

WANT TO BE HAPPY? BE A GIVER



One of Jesus' most well-known statements is, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When our 15 year old microwave recently bit the dust, I found myself in a bit of a friendly disagreement with my parents. They, being the generous people they always have been, wanted to buy us a new one. I, being the independent and self-sufficient person I am, did not feel it was necessary. But my Dad ended up winning the "argument" when he said how much it really would make them happy to bless us in that way. I gave in, and the microwave is now installed (and I think we're BOTH happy!)

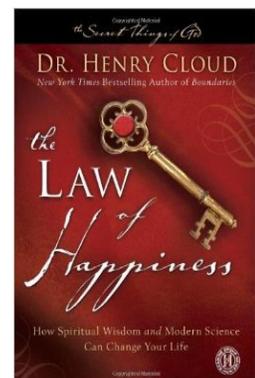
In "The Law of Happiness", author and psychologist Dr. Henry Cloud writes the following:

One of the strongest findings of the happiness and well-being research is that people who are givers, those who serve others...are much happier than the ones who don't. For example, the National Institutes of Health showed

that pleasure centers of the brain, the ones that respond to food and sex, also light up when people think of giving to others. God has actually hooked your brain up in a way that makes you feel good when you give. Dr. Cloud concludes, If you want to increase your happiness, spend some of your heart, mind, and soul—even your money—on others.

The research is in. If you want to raise your level of personal happiness, find ways to give to others. It can be as simple as buying a coffee for the next person in line, or as profound as helping build a home for someone in a third-world country. It doesn't need to cost money, either. What about making a point to hold the door open for someone, looking the grocery checker in the eye and wishing them a good day, and helping a neighbor pick up their yard after a storm? I think we all know that happiness is contagious. Giving to others spreads it around!

Is
it
really
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Housing shortage on North Whidbey motivates buyers and sellers

Residents of North Whidbey have been hearing for the last couple of years of the 2 squadrons being relocated to NASWI starting later this year. According to an article in the Whidbey News-Times by Dan Richman (*Feeling the squeeze: As NAS Whidbey grows, housing options decline. Feb. 13, 2016*) a big question is **"How is Oak Harbor going to keep up with the expected expansion and the demand for schools and housing?"**

Using 2016 as a baseline, the number of personnel associated with NAS Whidbey Island is projected to increase by 1,320 people, or 7 percent, by 2018 and by 3,740 people, or 20 percent, by 2019. Those numbers include Navy personnel, their families, civilian contractors and government employees.

According to the article, those moving to the area are already finding it difficult to find affordable housing options as base housing is near capacity, rental homes are becoming scarce, and the laws of supply and demand are pushing housing prices to the upper end of affordability for Navy families. Two conclusions can be drawn from this. First,

many of those relocating to NASWI will be forced to find housing in places like Burlington, Mount Vernon, and Sedro-Woolley. Second, the real estate market will continue to favor sellers for the foreseeable future, as demand will remain high for a limited amount of affordable homes.

In light of this, those considering buying should waste no time as interest rates are still historically low, and prices will most likely continue rising. Those considering selling their homes will benefit from a free market analysis of their home's current value, and can anticipate favorable and quick offers. I would be honored to help you get the information you need to make the best decision for your situation.

THANK YOU for the 5 referrals I have received from people like you in the last two months. I consider that the highest compliment, and it is an honor serving your friends and family members.

**JUST NEED
SOME MORE
INFORMATION?**

I can help you learn how much of a mortgage your budget can support, put you in touch with local lenders, provide a complimentary market analysis of your home's value, and link you up with trusted service providers for improving your home inside and out. I'd love to help you!


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**Serving people is
the heart of my business.**