

the house next door



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Let's face it:

when the house next door is for sale, you sweat a little, maybe even pray, that the new neighbor will be someone enjoyable to live beside.

When purchasing a home, neighborhood is a big deal. While owning, neighborhood remains a big deal.

Buyers schedule to tour a home and diligently look at the condition and property features. They also look to the left, to the right, across the street, and behind the yard. What do the neighboring properties look like?

It can be a deal breaker for some if the property next door is not well-kept and needs substantial clean up. Your neighbor's actions or inactions may spook a potential buyer and could play a role in determining the worth of your home by REALTORS® and appraisers.

Property ownership allows for the homeowner to live how they choose, to a degree. Whether you own in a suburban setting or rural area, each city and county has zoning rules that property owners must abide by.

If your neighbor's home is a concern, you may want to review covenants and bylaws as well as consult with your local city ordinance department. In some situations, you may need a legal consultation.

Be proactive within your own street.

A thriving neighborhood starts with each of us. Look around your street: is there someone who could use a hand with their lawn or some outdoor cleanup? Even a small gesture can have a big impact. You can also connect neighbors with organizations that offer assistance.

More importantly, get to know your neighbor.

It is my opinion that most people hope to maintain a friendly relationship with those who reside within their neighborhood. Statistics show that social cohesion helps communities to thrive. Those who have strong social connections among residents, characterized by trust, cooperation, and mutual support, foster a sense of belonging and resilience.

Make pride of ownership contagious. Homeownership is a cherished goal; for many, it represents the American dream. Cultivating a street where relationships flourish, safety is prioritized, and stability reigns makes that dream a reality for everyone.

