

- Lexington \$142,000
- Chapin \$139,950
- Columbia \$148,000
- Downtown \$149,000
- W. Columbia \$119,900
- Blythwood \$109,500
- Hopkins \$65,250

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Real Living Perspectives

Creating a Welcoming Feeling in the Guest Room

It used to be the most often overlooked room in the house, an afterthought, a hodgepodge of leftover furniture, and storage for whatever didn't have a place elsewhere.

While just about everyone understands that the guest room's function is double duty, no one wants to feel that they're stay was an afterthought. In order to create a room that focuses on hospitality and concern for your visitor's comfort and convenience just a few steps need be taken.

- ◆ Properly store your office, craft and other items. Now's the time to go out a buy a few nice organizing baskets, shelves, or whatever fits the room. Don't forget under the bed. There are enormous options out there for smart storage to include bed pedestals that heighten the bed. You not only get the much needed out of the way space, but in elevating the bed it makes your guests feel special!



- ◆ Now think of this as your own mini welcoming bed and breakfast suite. Who might be staying here? Are the grandkids sleeping over? Are your in-laws on the way? Is your best friend stopping by for a few days? To create a welcoming, comfortable retreat perfect for any guest means finding a theme for this room.
- ◆ The final touches are yours for the choosing: Fresh towels & a pretty bathroom glass, a nice tray for your visitors to place their special things in while resting, even a personal note of welcome, or special chocolate and fresh flowers. The point is to find something showing personal appreciation for the effort they took to come and see you!

Be sure to enjoy your time, relax, and don't over schedule activities!

Real Living Perspectives

Have a Very Merry Multicultural Holiday Season

We hope you'll find these web sites useful this holiday season and in turn may also be helping those less fortunate.

- ◆ www.scdmh.org - The Art of Recovery project recognizes the talent of people who live with mental illnesses and the role that creative outlets, like art, can play in the recovery process. You'll be amazed at the wonderful pieces available for purchase that help this cause.
- ◆ www.givethegiftofsight.org - Donate your used eyeglasses to help a grandmother in Bolivia see her grandchildren, or a child in Alabama see the blackboard. Since 2003 this has been the work of LensCrafters and Lions Clubs.
- ◆ www.recycleyourday.com/donate-your-christmas-cards-to-st-jude-recycling-program/ Started over 30 years ago with just Christmas cards but now all occasion. The children of St. Jude turn the old cards into new. They also receive payment for their hard work and learn the advantages of going green while doing so.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children; Card Recycling Program; 100 St. Jude's Street; Boulder City, NV 89005

- ◆ www.cleaningforareason.org - Serving the entire USA this group will provide a woman going through breast cancer treatment with free house cleaning up to 4 months.

Featured Listings.....>>>>>



1 Wise Ferry Court
Land's End Townhome

Close to the tip of the peninsula, 3bedrms,
3 full baths, Wide-Open Lake views for
miles. One of a kind! **\$319,000**

Click [HERE](#) to visit the website.

5125 Burke Avenue
Steps to Columbia College

Ready to move in! Totally renovated, all brick
bungalow: 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 1 car garage.
Lot's of space and light for the price! **\$99,900**

Click [HERE](#) to visit the website.



The Object of My Affection . . .

. . . Is a dinner game that will keep the kids engaged and everyone's stories flowing.

prep: A few days before your family gathering, ask everyone to pick out a small object to bring with them, something that has a story behind it. Explain that other people will have to guess who it belongs to, so you don't want something with a name or picture on it (or anything breakable, since it'll be passed around — perhaps not so gently). Ask them to conceal it in gift wrap or newspaper.

setup: Leave a basket or canvas bag near the door where people can drop off their wrapped objects.

play: Starting with an adult, pass the basket and have each person unwrap one object and guess whose it is. They also have to guess the story behind it. (Outlandish stories hold the kids' attention better than serious guesses, as in, "I bet Grandma found this seashell when she was washing behind her ears.") Then pass the object to the person you just named. If the guess is not correct, *that* person has to take a turn guessing who the owner is. (Grandpa says, "It's not mine. I bet my sister bought it at a gift shop in the desert," and passes it to her.)

Set a limit of two passes before the owner must 'fess up with the real story.



105 Tranquil Trail **\$235,000**
 205 Placid Drive **\$252,000**
 All brick courtyard homes in a wonderful community close to Lake Murray in Irmo. Lex/Richland 5 schools. Ready to move in!



307 Poindexter
 Almost an acre in Governor's Grant!

Owners have already relocated from this beautiful 4 bedrms, 2.5 full baths, 2500 sqft, high ceilings, hardwood floors, heavy moulding and Chef's kitchen. **\$259,000**
Just reduced, freshly painted and cleaned.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the website.



Pampering your loving hands

They've done so much for you this holiday season, take some time to appreciate them with this home-made Milk & Honey hand and nail cream.



Developed by Christopher Watt, esthetician to the stars, this hand emollient treatment keeps hands soft and moisturized.

- 1/2 cup whole milk
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 cup melted glycerin (try Sally's Beauty Supply)
- 1/4 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp jojoba oil
- 2 tbsp white or green tea (brewed)
- 6-8 drops of your favorite essential oil (lavender or chamomile work well, or you can opt out on this)
- 4 tbsp sea or Epsom salts

Set aside tea and sea/Epsom salt. In a blender/food processor, mix all other ingredients until smooth. Then add tea and salt blending well.

Massage into hands and cuticles thoroughly. Wrap your hands in a warm wet towel and relax for a few. Rinse and dry hands ideally after about 10-15 minutes.

Store remaining cream in a tightly covered container or bottle and refrigerate.

This mixture will last approximately four weeks from the time you made it, so be sure to place a "use by" date on your label.

Home: Safe & Secure

The holidays are not the only time to ensure the safety of your home from intruders, but this year with the upcoming census activity it might be a good time to take another look at your home.

If you don't have windows that let you see who's knocking at your door, install a peephole or door viewer as they're sometimes called. They're inexpensive (no more than \$20) and easy to install even for the do-it-yourself'er!

The BBB is recommending that extra caution be taken to ensure you're not a victim of fraud, identity theft, or intrusion. A US census worker will have a badge, a handheld census device, a canvas census bag, and a confidentiality notice. Ask to see their identification and know that you do NOT have to invite them into your home. Be sure to know that they will also NOT ask for social security, bank account, or credit card numbers.

As for theft of your holiday gifts, the FBI indicates that over 70% of home entries are through a door or unlocked window. If your home does not have deadbolt locks, these are another inexpensive do-it-yourself security measure. And as always when traveling, be sure to let your neighbors know so they can keep a watch, stop all mail and newspaper deliveries, and try out the new timers for lights. They're quite effective.



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Expect Great Things!