

Mortgage Rates Are Falling

As our Spring real estate market kicks into high gear potential homebuyers just got an early treat from the Easter Bunny with a big drop in interest rates. According to Bankrate.com latest survey of national mortgage lenders, the 30-year mortgage rate sank 27 basis points last week to 4.17%, the biggest weekly drop in a decade. The last time the benchmark 30-year rate was below this level was Jan. 3, 2018 when it hit 4.1 percent, according to Bankrate's historical data. Since last November mortgage rates have almost dropped a full percentage point when the benchmark rate was just short of 5.0%. While the above rates are national averages local lenders have recently quoted 30-year fixed rate jumbo loans at 3.75%, 10/1 ARMs at 3.25% and 7/1 ARMs at 3.125% (all with no points and fees).

This huge drop in rates comes on the heels of the Federal Reserve announcing last month to keep rates steady and signaling no more rate increases for the rest of the year. This welcome news comes just in time for the Spring market and a great opportunity to refinance your current mortgage.

We look forward to hearing from you with your real estate questions.



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Achieve divine design by avoiding these five common decorating don'ts



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4) Choosing a rug that is too small for the space. I like to call it Rug Island. You know, where the rug floats in the center of the room not touching a single piece of furniture? I understand that rugs can be a large investment and many of us have kiddos and prefer not to spend a lot on a rug so we opt for an inexpensive 5 X 8 size. A great way to save on cost is to have a local carpet store make a rug out of broadloom. For living rooms a good rule of thumb is to either have all the furniture pieces on the rug or at least have all the front legs of the furniture on the rug.

5) Piecemeal decorating. Often times when I go to a consult the client is stuck moving forward because they started to decorate without a plan. Maybe they recently moved into their new home and quickly ran out to purchase a sofa and chairs or ordered a rug online and realized the color was wrong. Then they tried to use their existing coffee table but it now feels too small for the space. And now they find themselves struggling to make things "work." Decorating piecemeal or buying things one at a time is the most difficult way to decorate. Having a plan in place with room measurements and fabric swatches will ensure that less mistakes will be made. Even if you are unable to purchase all the items at once, it is still better to have the plan in place

and purchase as your time and budget allows. This is why clients love our Designer Day package, because they can hire us to create the plan and they are able to execute it when they are ready.

If you have made one or more of these mistakes please know that we've all been there! And when in doubt, Google it! There is a plethora of information at our fingertips that 15 years ago didn't exist. I'll leave you with one of my favorite quotes from designer Charles Eames: "The details are not the details. They make the design." Until next time dear friends!

As the Owner and Principal Designer of Lamorinda-based Amanda Carol Interiors, Amanda Eck believes your home's interior should be both approachable and well-appointed. She often asserts, "Beauty is a necessity."

With a distinct sense of style that mixes contemporary and classic design she fashions spaces that are both elegant and inviting. Her design aesthetic is inspired by anything visual but especially fashion, architecture and art.

Visit <http://amandacarolinteriors.com> for more design ideas.

