

Don's Home News

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Why Retweeting May Necessitate a Retwaction

They say, “Googling before you type is the new think before you speak” – a relevant reminder in a social climate where we quickly like or share Web material.

Arguably, the rule to think before you speak is most pertinent when it comes to Twitter. In the entire sea of social media, Twitter represents the most challenging assortment of problems. Whereas other social networks offer a private network of contacts and limit what can be shared outside that network, Twitter offers no such parameters. With Twitter, once you say something, it is out there for the world to see and share. It is the proverbial game of telephone for the digital generation.

Just as in the game of telephone, Twitter users can modify a tweet before retweeting it. Though this is premised with “MT” (meaning “modified tweet”), the entire meaning of a message can change with only a few minor modifications. What you initially said might not be what someone five times removed is retweeting, and *you* are credited as the source – even be it with an “MT” stamp.

Enter Retwact. This Web-based service helps people write and share corrections on Twitter. The platform lets users view reshared tweets and offers a series of recourse options for retractions. Users can either (1) write a retraction tweet, or (2) send an #RTRetract hashtag via the Retwact Twitter account to all original retweeters. Retractions are easily made and clarification is simplified in unison with a side-by-side tweet of the original and corrected tweet.

Are You a First-Time Buyer? Get My Free Guide

Buying your first home is a big step and one that is likely to influence your financial future for years to come.

Make it easier by requesting my free guide

“How First-Timers Can Make a Wise Buy.”

Just email me at donzahnle@gmail.com and I will send it right out to you.

The Real Truth Behind “Reality” Real Estate Shows

As reality programming continues to dominate the television world, real estate shows have proven to be a real hit among viewers. Shows such as *Million Dollar Listing*, *Love It or List It*, *House Hunters* and *Property Virgins* all depict the experiences of real people looking for real homes.

As it turns out, however, those experiences are not always so real. The process of buying a home – in real life – isn’t quite as simple, and the houses aren’t as well designed, so television must find a way to exaggerate, sugarcoat and package the story so viewers will want to watch.

Take the example of *House Hunters*. In 2012, a Texas family who appeared on the show revealed its inner workings. It is said that two of the houses the family apparently considered actually belonged to friends, and were not even on the market. The homes were chosen because they were attractive and clean. HGTV released a statement that cleverly avoided confirming or denying the family’s claims.

Most shows glaze over the details of buying a home beyond tours and making an offer. You will never see buyers applying for a mortgage, or real estate lawyers going over paperwork. In addition, TV buyers never seem to walk away from a home – something that often happens in reality when a home inspection reveals deal-breaking problems.

However, the goal of these shows is not to depict real life, despite their claim to be reality television. Instead, they serve as a pleasant distraction from everyday life. At their best, perhaps they inspire viewers to take better care of their own homes.

Give Your Child a Great Start With a New-Look Bedroom

A new school year can both frighten and thrill children. Help them cope with changes out of their control by involving them in a change they can control: decorating their bedroom.

Treat your child's room with as much care as you gave their nursery. And now that they've left the crib, let them help decide how "their space" will look. Give them design books and magazines. Look at paint chips, wallpaper and fabrics together. Pay attention to their interests – they may inspire accents and decorations. Old records can become decals on the wall; sports equipment can become places to hang uniforms. Have fun together. Sure, you may send them to their room later for punishment, but that doesn't mean re-decorating has to be a chore.

It may be their room, but it is still your house. Do your own research, and not just about budgets. A new coat of paint provides the most economic decorating change. Stick to two or three colors and avoid paints with volatile organic compounds. Pick colors that will encourage learning and relaxation – while black walls may be a teenager's dream and a parent's nightmare, some decorators consider it classy. Give your children a space to play and be kids. Consider banning, or at least limiting, electronic devices. If your child has special needs, ask an educator or therapist about what play equipment is best for them.

Finally, relax. Your child needs a good home more than a room – and that begins with you.

Quick Quiz

Each month I'll give you a new question.

Just email me at donzahnle@gmail.com for the answer.

The Matterhorn is on the border of what two countries?

Why Not Pass Me to a Friend?

If you've enjoyed this newsletter and found its information useful, please pass it to a neighbor, friend or co-worker.

And if you have any comments about it, don't forget to give me a call or send me an [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com)!

Are You Wondering How Much Your Home Is Worth?

Do you want to know how the price of your home has changed in today's market? Do you want to know for how much other homes in your neighborhood are selling?

If you're wondering what's happening to prices in your area, or you're thinking about selling your house, I can help.

Either call 404-939-1309 or [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) me for a no-obligation, professional evaluation.

I won't pressure you into listing with me or waste your time. [Read about how I feel about pressure!](#) I'll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

I'll also give you the "inside scoop" on what's happening in the housing market near where you live!

Call me at 404-939-1309 or email me at donzahnle@gmail.com and we will arrange a time to get together.

Worth Reading

The Genius of Getting it Wrong
By Carl Zimmer

Want to sell a newspaper or magazine? Suggest Albert Einstein made a mistake. That's what Mario Luvio does in *Brilliant Blunders*. In it, he shows how five scientific greats each made mistakes. If they provided much of the foundation for modern science, then it's a discipline built on a flawed foundation at best. But as Carl Zimmer points out, Luvio's treatment isn't perfect either. But that hasn't kept Einstein out of textbooks, so it shouldn't keep this book off your shelves. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/geniuswrong>

The Last Word: He Said She Was Leaving. She Ignored Him
By Laura Munson

Parenting experts often say ignoring your child's temper tantrum will make them stop. But does the same tactic work with spouses who want a divorce? Laura Munson tried. In this thoughtful essay, the woman who can handle her own chainsaw and recover from a Caesarean section without medication talks about the long, slow process of helping her husband come home. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/sheignored>

Do Unpaid Internships Lead to Jobs? Not for College Students
By Jordan Weissmann

It's a common scenario. A new student is asked why they enrolled in their particular program of study. They answer quickly – it includes an internship. Well, they may want to pause. This article uses recent data to show students who had unpaid internships are not more likely to receive job offers than their cohorts who had no internships at all. The only question left to answer is why. **More:** <http://tinyurl.com/unpaid12>

How an Aging Population is Changing our Cities

Local and national governments have long focused on making communities good places for families, children, young adults and the disadvantaged. But as America ages – by 2050, it is estimated that more than 32 million Americans will be over the age of 80 – there is a demand for national planning on how to best care for seniors and the elderly while avoiding a national debt crisis.

Chronic disease, disabilities, and the need for personal care will place a financial stress on governments. And as retirement takes place *en masse*, fewer workers will be left to fill in the gaps and pay for pensions.

Many are calling on national

governments to face the music when it comes to the growing population of seniors. KPMG's recent Global Healthcare Practice Report says that without a national agenda, the healthcare systems of many countries could become overwhelmed.

Local governments will also need to plan for the aging population in their own communities. According to Richard Florida, managing editor of *The Atlantic* magazine, American seniors are mobile, willing to move long distances, and attracted to urban centers. Cities hold the same appeal for older people as they do for younger; amenities and attractions such as transit, museums, restaurants, and parks are desirable. These communities will need

to plan accordingly for aging populations, insuring they are prepared to take care of them.

But it's not just governments that need to be planning; it's individual citizens, too. A recent poll of Americans over 40 by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that two-thirds have done little or no planning for their future as they age. Three in ten say they would rather not think about it; only a quarter think it's very likely that they will require assistance in caring for themselves. Not so. Figures show that close to 70 percent of Americans will require a form of long-term care at some point after turning 65.

Going Away? Be Smart With Your Phone

Your bags are packed, airline tickets have been booked and you're off to the airport...it's vacation time! You have spent so much effort planning for this exciting experience and making sure your belongings are safe, but do you always think about your phone?

Here are a few tips that, according to McClatchy-Tribune News Service, will help keep your cellphone and your personal data information safe on while you are on vacation:

- Hide it – if your phone can't be seen, it's less likely to be stolen.
- Password-protect it – a password lock on your phone can help prevent people from finding out personal information should your phone go missing.
- Back it up – if your phone goes missing, but you have backed it up at home, your information will be safe.
- Be wary of connecting it – some Wi-Fi hotspots and Bluetooth connections can actually help thieves access your personal information. If you are not using the services, turn them off.

Airport Dogs Relieve Traveler Stress

Some American airports have started using canines to help relieve visitor anxiety. Airport visitors spend time with these animals marked by special bandanas or coats. They cuddle and play with the animals.

A whole variety of dogs can be used for this job, as long as they are comfortable with the crowded, smelly, noisy airport atmosphere. But like any staff or visitor, they need to clear security. Increased

airport security may be one of the reasons this job exists – some airports began using these canines to help passengers cope with the added stresses brought on after the September 2011 terrorist attacks caused airports to increase security. The dogs also help travelers handle more personal tragedies such as sicknesses, divorces and death. They have even helped prepare passengers with autism for trips.

Ask the Agent: This Month's Question

How do we find our dream home?

Don't let the media determine your dream home.

Chances are you already know what you want and what you can afford. Find a respected agent and trust them.

But also trust yourself – your home will only be a dream if it fits your life's reality.

Picture how you would paint the walls, and where you'd put furniture. Take pictures and keep good notes. Make lists about what you want – the size of the yard, how the house faces the sun, whether the layout suits your family's lifestyle.

Consider what you will need if, for instance, you or family members age in the home. Compare your lists with potential properties, and consider if any necessary changes can be made easily.

Because it can only be a dream home if, you can really live in it.

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Sudoku instructions: Complete the 9 × 9 grid so that each row, each column and each of the nine 3 × 3 boxes contains the digits 1 through 9. Contact me for the solution!

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Thanks for reading! If you'd like to tell me what you think about this newsletter, or if you're thinking of buying or selling real estate, please get in touch.

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Recipe: Honey Orange Lamb Chops

The perfect recipe for national honey month!

Serves 4

- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 lamb chops, about ¾ inches thick
- ½ cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon dried tarragon
- 2 tablespoons honey
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

Heat oil in a 12-inch skillet, add lamb chops and cook for about five minutes on each side. Remove the chops to a platter.

Add the next three ingredients to the skillet and scrape up any brown bits stuck to the bottom. Bring to a boil and reduce to about half for about three minutes. Reduce heat to low and add honey, salt, pepper and mustard.

Mix thoroughly, then return chops to skillet and heat through.

