



BUILDING COMMUNITY...
ONE FAMILY AT A TIME



Natalie's Neighborhood Newsletter



925-580-9829

NatalieSwanson.com

Homes@NatalieSwanson.com

Team Member Spot Light!

Pg. 3



Inside Hong Kong's "Coffin" Homes

People who live in the extremely tight urban center of Hong Kong have long solved their housing dilemma in a small way: by cramming together into tiny shared "coffin" homes.

The practice has been to divide apartments into smaller and smaller private spaces, giving each family sometimes just 50 or 75 square feet of living space. Families make do by stacking their possessions vertically, leaving just a tiny space on the floor level for eating, sleeping, and living.



Often apartments are not just divided; they're also reconstructed into a warren of stacked double-decker bed spaces, partitioned by plywood or curtains. Kitchens and toilets are shared by several cubicle groups.



These tiny spaces may be the only option for people on the low end of the economic scale. But newer developments are also springing up, purpose-built like "coffin" homes. These are generally more attractive co-living spaces reminiscent of college dorms, with comfortable common areas and private cubbies

for sleeping. They are appealing to students and young workers.

Isn't it interesting what people get used to in their living situations? When looking at our own surroundings, you can see that we also have certain size and location standards. Those standards often change over a lifetime from student to young worker to family to retirement. My job is to smooth the transitions from one kind of housing to the next. So when you're ready to make your next move, call me personally and let me know what you're looking for. I'll help you find and buy the right home for the next stage in your life.

Finding your next home is a team effort...

While you're looking, I'll scour upcoming listings and preview homes. Together we'll find the right home for you.

Coming Soon!

264 Clark Street
2824 College Ave
1576 Prima Drive

APRIL QUIZ QUESTION:

How many sides does a circle have?

Free Report

HOW TO SAVE FOR A DOWN PAYMENT

Houses cost a lot! But banks help by loaning you the purchase price so you don't have to come up with the full amount in one lump sum. In exchange, they expect you to have skin in the game in the form of a down payment. Here are some smart ways to **know how much to save**, and **how to save it**. Text me for a copy of this handy report.

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For Fun: Traveling with Prepositions

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family, and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too big on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often than I like. One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense!

"What should I ask my real estate agent before buying a home?"

There are a lot of questions you could ask before placing an offer on a home. Like, *What is the sales history of this home, and how should that affect my offer? Or Should I have the roof inspected? Or Are prices going up or down in this neighborhood, and is this home a good investment?*

Most of the time I can provide you with solid advice and direction. But sometimes I can only provide information, and it's up to you to make a final decision. For instance, I can provide you with a list of home inspectors, but it is your responsibility to interview them before hiring one. I can provide you with pricing data, but it's your choice what price you offer.

You can't always know all the questions you should be asking, so if you're not asking an important question, I'll raise it for you. Then I'll help you get the right information to make decisions in your best interests. *Call me when you're ready to buy your next home.*

★ Team Member Spotlight ★

Don Swanson

- Director of Operations / Owner

Those of you who know Don Swanson know he will do anything for his friends and family. He is an incredibly hard worker and invaluable asset to the Swanson Team. Don retired last summer after 30 years of service as an IT Manager from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Now he is working full time for the family business! He actively volunteers for the Livermore Police department and is a loving husband to Natalie Swanson and a wonderful father to his daughters Shelby and Sarah. This Team would not function without Don. He REALLY is the best!



Thank You!

Special thanks this month to...

Angela and Jeff Banks

Connie Becker

Rick and Kristie Meyer

Ryan Smith

I count on referrals from happy clients and other friends who trust me with their most important transaction. I hope you feel comfortable introducing me to the people you care about, too.

Want to Win a \$10 Coffee Card?

It's easy to win! Just send in the answer to the **quiz question** on **page 2**. Each month, all correct entries have a chance of winning a coffee card. Put **QUIZ** in the subject and email it to: **Homes@NatalieSwanson.com**

Last Month's Question: *What do you get if you divide the circumference of an apple by its diameter?*

Last Month's Answer: *Apple Pi*
(or an alternative answer: half an apple)

You could be next months winner!!!



HAVING A GARAGE SALE? NEED DIRECTIONAL SIGNS?

We have them!!!

Just contact us and we will bring them to you!

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Natalie Swanson
Keller Williams Tri-Valley Realty
2300 First Street #316
Livermore, CA 94550
CA LIC # 01709115

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This Could Be You!



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