

SOUND OFF *Craig Osbrin*

How do neighborhoods affect the real estate market?



When prospective home buyers fall in love with a home, it's just as important that they feel the same way concerning the community in which the home is situated. Convenience of transportation, events, restaurants, schools and other amenities within the community are a big draw.

They have many questions as they begin their home search. What are the best nearby restaurants? Is it a family-friendly neighborhood? Where can I

source statistics concerning the community that I am looking in? Dedicated real estate agents have a tried and true code of ethics. It is the agent's job to point out the highlights of each neighborhood and its surrounding community. After all, your agent is your liaison in every aspect of the buying and selling process.

A good agent should be prepared with relevant contacts and resources that will help you in your property search; a great agent will be an invaluable

source of information in your search for your most desirable community.

There are a variety of online resources that one can use to investigate a home buyer's questions in regard to their pending neighborhood.

Those include www.zillow.com, www.zillow.com/neighborhood where one can check out neighborhood restaurants. Check out www.realtor.org for research and statistics from the National Association of Realtors, and the Connecticut Association of Real-

tors at www.ctrealtors.com for media and press releases in your area.

For information on neighborhood schools, please visit www.greatschools.org, which gives individual school ratings and has a Zillow connect tab, and www.schoolidigger.com, where you can look up test scores in the prospective neighborhood schools.

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