

SOUND OFF *Patty McManus*

What is your opinion on mobile real estate research?

When prospective buyers are considering a real estate purchase, they typically have a thirst for information and knowledge about the town, neighborhoods, schools, local activities and amenities, comparable property sales and homes that are currently available for sale.

They will often rely on apps or websites to gather as much information as they can. I say “let the buyer beware” as there are many apps and websites that contain inaccurate information.

The amount of research and the

methods used to gain information would depend on the degree of interest. If the buyer is just starting their home search, I think it is fine to use mobile apps and websites because the buyer is in search of “general” information that would lead to the next step.

However, the best and most accurate information for someone who is seriously contemplating a purchase, should come from the most reliable resources available. If you are looking for neighborhood safety statistics, you would contact the local police department to make



that inquiry. If you are looking for accurate tax information and specific information on a particular property, you would visit the municipal offices.

The same would apply to information on schools or local groups that are important to the buyer. Your real estate agent is an invaluable resource in this regard as he or she can advise and assist in collecting the information and resources that you are searching for.

The prospective buyer needs to reach a level of comfort in order to productively move forward with their purchase. Having sufficient information from reliable sources will greatly improve their experience. Purchasing a home, after all, is one of the most important per-

sonal and financial decisions people make in their lifetime. Having peace of mind during the process and having the security of knowing that this is the right decision for them is paramount.

My best advice in using the internet for research would be to use the information to get started but be sure to confirm that it is true and correct before relying on it for such an important decision.

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