

The Twenty-Second Twenty Second Read



00: The New Year

New years are often full of hope and promise, 2010 is like most others in that way. I hope real estate will turn around and I promise to make it hurt as little as possible if it doesn't. This year in real estate will probably run its course in just a few short months. The buyer will most likely push the majority of this year's activity to the first months of the year. As it pertains to buying or selling a home, spring is here and late summer starts in about June. If you are not ready, get so. In years past I viewed St. Patrick's Day or the ides of March as the time to get crackin', this year Valentines Day will be the target no-later-than list date for the clients I am working with.

20: The New Website

Some of you may have heard a whisper, or noticed benanton.com slowly replacing antonhomes. Now, not only is the name new, but so is the look and much of the content. It's running at about 90% right now with some voids to fill and punctuation to polish, but even at less than optimal performance, I think it blows the old website out of the water. There are great resources for figuring mortgage payments, you can read all about me in the words of my clients, or share a word yourself. It has those twitter, linked-in and facebook links too, which are all the rage. So spend your Friday afternoon wisely and drop on by.

40: The New Radio Interview

The extended first time buyer credit and move-up buyer credit are just a few of the variables affecting the market as we enter 2010. In late December I had a chance to sit down with Adam Elliot, host of Entercom Radio's "Weekend Perspectives" to talk a bit about all of those things. Featured prominently on my [new website](#) (did I mention the new website?) you can listen to both this interview as well as the previous one, aired in early 2009. I may not have the star charm that will hold you for the full 15 minutes or so, but it's a great way for me to look fancy if you want to share my name with a friend. If you were stuck in traffic, or watching the clock tick down to 5pm, it might be an excellent alternative.

60: The New Level

If you have ever worked on an old home, you know level is not always the answer. If just one thing in the room is level or square, it will stick out. I am a practitioner of what I call "split the difference remodeling". Often a project like floors, cabinets, trim, have several layers or components. Splitting the difference with the installation of each layer will bring you closer to level, but not in an alarming or abrupt way. The best tool for splitting the difference is one squinty eye, you know "Eyeball it." Skip the builder (who uses a laser level to hang a post it note) sent a great link with a fun little exercise to calibrate your squinty eye. This "[Eyeball-it test](#)," should help build accuracy and pass 3 minutes.

benanton.com quicklinks

- benanton.com
- [Ben's Blog](#)
- [Featured Homes](#)
- [MLS Stats](#)
- [Bunbury I-Find](#)

Homeowner tip:

You may have experienced this before, a toilet that rocks a bit side to side. You may not think though of the consequences. Poo water in your walls, ceilings and floors. Is there stained linoleum at the base of your commode? Could be poo water in leaking past a spent wax seal. Imperative but easy and inexpensive to fix, just gross.

