391 PLEASANT STREET, U108 MELROSE | 02176









LIST PRICE \$449,900

Welcome home to Webster Willows, blending neighborhood, commutability and outstanding space. Generous entry combines form and function, as you have a welcome area while hosting closet storage and in-unit laundry closet, leading to the kitchen which boasts granite counters, stainless appliances and maple shaker-style cabinetry, and features a window to the combination living and dining room, allowing the cook to be part of the gathering. This space hosts hardwood floors and provides oodles of space for entertaining. En suite bath and upgraded walk-in closet with custom built-ins, as well as lovely natural light from the bay window, are the appointments of the master bedroom, and the spacious second bedroom offers nice light and generous closet storage. Two full baths; garage and lot parking. This first floor unit provides easy access and has been lovingly maintained. Steps to the Wyoming train and convenient to Oak Grove on foot or by bus, Melrose's bustling downtown and the Fells combining shopping, dining, cultural amenities and the tranquility of nature all within a short jaunt.

ALISON SOCHA & LINDA O'

AGENT EXPERTISE TEAM 781.517.0213 LindaandAlison@LeadingEdgeAgents.com AgentExpertise.com

RE/MAX LEADING EDGE 536 MAIN STREET, MELROSE | 781.979.0100



391 PLEASANT STREET, UNIT 108 | MELROSE





Living Room	16×16	lst	HWF
Kitchen	9x9	1st	HWF
Master Bedroom	16×14	1st	W/W
Bedroom	14×14	1st	W/W
Bathroom	Full	1st	СТ
Bathroom	Full	1st	СТ

Condo Fee Includes: Master Insurance, Building Maintenance, Snow Removal, Landscaping, Water, Sewer, Refuse Removal.

Style	Garden
Year Built	2006
Year Converted	2007
Rooms	4-5
Bedrooms	2
Bathrooms	2 Full
Living Area	1,153 sq./ft **

AC	Central
Heat	FHA Gas 2007
Hot Water	Electric 2015
Sump Pump	No
New WM	Yes
Insulation	Yes Full
Electric	СВ
Sewer/Water	MWRA
School	Apply

Condo Fee	\$361.09 \$437.05*
Owner Occupied	25/1
Condo % Interest	3.838%
Storage	In Unit
Pet Policy	One cat or dog
Condo Questionnaire	To be requested
Supplemental Budget	\$307.04* (over 4 months)*
Management Co.	A.R.K. Management
4424000 - 1-00	

Color	Gray
Exterior	Clapboard Shingles
Roof	Asphalt Rubber
Foundation	Concrete
Fireplace	No
Parking	(2) Deeded Assigned 1c garage, 1c Off-Street
Evalueione: Saa Inclusio	o/Evolucion Shoot Dice

Range	Gas
Dishwasher	Yes
Disposal	Yes
Laundry Connection	In-Unit Electric
Microwave	Yes

Assessed Value	\$338,600
Annual Tax	\$3995.48
Monthly Tax	\$332.96
Master Book/Page	50426/523
Master Deed Date	12/04/2007

Exclusions: See Inclusion/Exclusion Sheet. Disclosures: *Condo fee is regularly \$361.09 but through December 2017, the fee is \$437.05 monthly as part of the supplemental budget for 2017. ** Living Area in PR states 1,040 sq./ft. We ask that anyone who wants to make an offer read our letter on offers and home inspections (visit AgentExpertise.com). This home, like all of our properties, is being sold "as is". Buyers need to understand that a home inspection is not done so that buyers can ask sellers to compensate them for the perfect house, but to ensure that buyers know what problems they should expect to address during their ownership; make offers accordingly. We mean it and will negotiate for radon & active termites ONLY. Some lenders & pre-approvals are problematic; please contact us for reliable lenders. When making offers please attach RE/MAX Leading Edge Rider which states that only a mutually agreeable purchase and sale will act as a binding agreement and purchase is not contingent on the sale of any assets.

BUYER'S INITIALS

RE/MAX Leading Edge Rider to Contract to Purchase - (Listing)

Address 391 Pleasant St, VIOS, Meurosc 02176

This contract to purchase is expressly conditioned upon the execution of a mutually acceptable Purchase and Sale Agreement, in form and substance approved by both parties' attorneys, unless waived, which when agreed upon and signed will become the contract between the parties. Until the expiration of this agreement, the parties will each make a good faith effort to achieve a mutually acceptable Purchase and Sale Agreement. Meanwhile, the seller will not accept another offer during the pendency of the Contract to Purchase. It is RE/MAX Leading Edge's policy not to release the executed Contract to Purchase if listing agent is not in possession of good faith deposit, fully executed lead paint disclosure (if built before 1978), fully executed Seller's Description of Property (if provided by listing agent), agency disclosure and satisfactory bank letter or verification of funds, if cash.

This RE/MAX Leading Edge Rider to Contract to Purchase and Purchase & Sale Agreement shall form part of the Contract, and shall also form part of the Purchase and Sale Agreement referred to herein. Time is of the essence. · Check One: The following shall be deemed added to the end of the paragraph contained in the Contract to Purchase regarding financing: The buyer acknowledges and agrees that Buyer's obligation to purchase the premises is not, in any way, contingent upon the sale of any of Buyer's assets. In the event that Buyer receives a mortgage commitment conditioned upon the sale of any of Buyer's assets or is denied financing because of Buyer's inability or failure to sell any assets, it is agreed that such conditional commitment or denial of financing, shall not, in any way, be deemed just cause for termination of this Contract and/or any subsequent Purchase and Sale Agreement and shall not entitle Buyer to a return of Buyer's deposit. OR ☐ This offer is contingent on the sale of Buyer's assets (Real Property or other) The Buyer is urged to conduct independent investigations through his/her attorney, through town officials, such as tax assessors. zoning and building departments, and the Board of Health or through a home inspector, etc. to verify any such information, including but not limited to the age of the home or its components, square footage and borders of the house lot; square footage of the home, zoning type; condition and age of mechanical and electrical systems, annual taxes, condition of home, idiosyncrasies of the neighborhood abutting the home; past and present structural problems of the home including problems with the roof or basement; the title to the property, etc. Buyer understands that information provided by Broker is based on information supplied by others and Brokers do not have personal knowledge of the matters relayed. Parties agree to the following: . The purchase and sale agreement will stipulate how oil will be adjusted by the parties, either by buyer reimbursing seller for remaining oil or seller gifting it to buyer at closing. All parties agree to deliver all requested information to lender no later than 10 business days prior to scheduled closing, unless another date will comply with lending and closing attorney policies which will be noted in the P&S. (Utilities such as final municipal water, sewer, electrical and gas; rents, security deposit, 6D last month's rent; commission statement etc, if applicable). • If applicable, the condo or HOA fee is \$ per month and/or \$ _____ per year. · If applicable, a portion of the Buyer's Agent fee is being paid directly to the Buyer's Agent's Firm by the Buyer at closing in the amount of \$ _____. No claim, counterclaim or cause of action for any loss or damage resulting from an extension required by Buyer's Lender pursuant to TRID regulations, shall be initiated or maintained by SELLER against BUYER or by BUYER against SELLER. unless caused by breach of the terms of this Rider.

Page 1 of 2

The firms involved are: Seller: RE/MAX Leading Edge 2 Mount Vernon Street, Winchester, 01890 MA License # 9499 Agent Name: Alison Socha Agent email Alison Socha Leading Edge Agents.com Agent phone number: 781-729-5505 Agent RE License # 9058239/S Buyer: Real Estate Firm Address License # Agent Name _____ Agent email ____ Agent phone number ______ Agent License # Buyer Date Buver Date Seller Date Seller Date (To Be Used When RE/MAX Leading Edge Represents Both Seller & Buyer in the Transaction) NOTICE OF AGENCY - check one DESIGNATED AGENCY: Broker previously gave notice of the potential for a designated agency relationship with both Buyer and Seller in connection with your real estate transaction. It was disclosed that a designated agent is a licensee who has been appointed by a Broker or salesman to represent a Buyer or Seller and, with consent of that client, another licensee associated with the same broker is authorized to represent the other party in the same transaction. That disclosure was contained in the Exclusive Listing Agreement (for Seller) or in the Exclusive Buyer Representation Agreement (for Buyer). Broker now gives notice that a designated agency has occurred and that licensees affiliated with Broker represent both Buyer and Seller in connection with the above named property. DUAL AGENCY: Broker previously gave notice of the potential for a dual agency relationship to occur in connection with your real estate transaction. That disclosure was contained either in the Exclusive Listing Agreement (for Seller) or in the Exclusive Buyer Representation Agreement (for Buyer). You previously gave your consent to that relationship. Broker now gives notice that a dual agency has occurred and that Broker and affiliated licensees represent both Buyer and Seller in connection with the above named property. A dual agent is authorized to assist the Buyer and Seller in a transaction, but shall be neutral with regard to any conflicting interest of the Buyer and Seller. Consequently, a dual agent will not have the ability to satisfy fully the duties of loyalty, full disclosure, reasonable care and obedience to lawful instructions, but shall still owe the duty of confidentiality of material information and the duty to account for funds. Signature (Seller's Agent) **Print Name** Date

Date

Print Name

Signature (Buyer's Agent)



RE/MAX LEADING EDGE

Inclusion/Exclusion Sheet for: 391 Pleasant St, VIOS, Melrose_

ITEM	INCLUDED	EXCLUDED	N/A
REFRIGERATOR	у		- 120 Del 200 1200
RANGE (STOVE)	у		
MICROWAVE	у		
DISHWASHER	у		
COMPACTOR			n/a
A/C (PORTABLE/WNDW)			n/a
WASHER	у		
DRYER	у		1 1977
DINING RM LIGHT	у		
OTHER LIGHT FIXTURES	У		
DRAPES		n	
WNDW TREATMENTS	y wooden blinds		
CURTAINS		n	
FIREPLACE SCREEN & EQUIPMENT			n/a
SWINGSET			n/a
SHED			n/a
PLAY STRUCTURE			n/a
PLANTS/WINDOW BOXES			n/a
TEREO SPEAKERS			n/a
E/VAC ATTACHMENTS			n/a
OOL EQUIPMENT			n/a
V & MOUNTS		n	
THER			
THER			
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SELLER	
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BUYER	
BUYER	

Note: Real Estate law stipulates that anything that is attached to the house must remain with the property unless excluded. E.g. Only window treatments that are permanently attached would stay if not excluded. Only the window treatment hardware that is attached would be expected to stay unless otherwise negotiated. Note refrigerators with ice-makers are plumbed into house and will require disconnection to be moved but can be excluded.



MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® SELLER'S STATEMENT OF PROPERTY CONDITION

THE SELLER AUTHORIZES THE BROKERS OR SALESPERSONS TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO PROSPECTIVE BUYERS. THIS INFORMATION IS BASED UPON THE SELLER'S KNOWLEDGE, BUT IS NOT INTENDED AS A GUARANTEE OF THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY OR THE CONTINUED SATISFACTORY OPERATION OF ANY SYSTEM.

THE BUYER SHOULD INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY ALL INFORMATION BEFORE PURCHASE,

	ANSWI		391 Pleasant St, U108, Melrose, MA 02176
YES	NO	UNKN	I. TITLE/ZONING/BUILDING INFORMATION
Ø			Scller/Owner Jane DiGiacomo How long owned? since 2007 How long occupied? Approximate year built? 2006 Have you been advised of any title problems or limitations (for example, deed restriction, lot line dispute, order of conditions)? If yes, please explain no
		\square	a) Do you know of any easement, common driveway, or right of way? If yes, please explain no
			4. Zoning classification of property (if known) 5. Has your city/town issued a notice of any violation which is still outstanding? If yes, explain
			6. Do you know of any variances or special permits? Explain no
			7. During Seller's ownership, has work been done for which a permit was required? If yes, explain no
		B	a) Were permits obtained? b) Was the work approved by inspector? c) Is there an outstanding notice of any building code violation? Yes No Explain
			8. Have you been informed that any part of the property is in a designated flood zone or wetlands? Explain.no
□ YES	□ NO	UNKN	(See Flood Zone disclosure Page 4) 9. Water drainage problems? Explain no II. SYSTEM AND UTILITIES INFORMATION
			DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CURRENT PROBLEM WITH ANY SYSTEM LISTED BELOW? 10. Has there ever been an UNDERGROUND FUEL TANK? If yes, is it still in use? no
			If not used, was it removed? (See Hazardous Materials Disclosure Page 4) 11. HEATING SYSTEM: Problems? Explain no a) Identify any unheated room or area no b) Approximate date of last service unk c) Reason unk 12. DOMESTIC HOT WATER: Type gas Age Problems? Explain
			12. DOMESTIC HOT WATER: Type gas Age Problems? Explain Burners Owned or rented? 13. SEWAGE SYSTEM: Problems? Explain no
			Type: Municipal Sewer Private If private, describe type of system: (cesspool, septic tank, etc.) . Name of service company Date it was last pumped Frequency During your ownership has sewage backed up into house or onto yard? Yes No Explain Is system shared with other homes?
	ER'S INIT		Date a Title 5 inspection last performed Copy attached. Yes No BUYER'S INITIALS

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Statewide Standard Read Extate Forms

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A	NSWE	<u>RS</u>	
			14. PLUMBING SYSTEM: Problems/Leaks/Freezing? Explain
			no Bathroom ventilation problems? Explain no
			15. DRINKING WATER SOURCE: Public Private If private:
10-1-10-1			a) Location b) Date last tested Report: Attached Not attached
П			c) Water quality problems? Explain no
Ш			d) Water quantity problems? Explain. e) Flow rate (gal. min.) no
ш		П	f) Age of pump g) Is there a filtration system? no Age/Type of filtration system
Н	Н	Ħ	g) is there a threation system? no Age-type of illitation system 16. ELECTRICAL SYSTEM: Problems? Explain no
		-	17. APPLIANCES: List appliances that are included all
			Any known problems? no
П	П		If yes, explain . 18. SECURITY SYSTEM: None Age Company
Н	Н	Н	19. AIR CONDITIONING: Central Window Other None Problems? Explain .
YES	NO	UNKN	III. BUILDING/STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS INFORMATION 20. FOUNDATION/SLAB:
\Box	\Box		Problems? Explain no
ш	M	ш	21. BASEMENT: Water Seepage Dampness Explain amount, frequency, and location a) Sump pump? If yes, age location Problems?
	abla		a) Sump pump? If yes, age. location Problems?
	abla		22, ROOF: Problems? Explain
			Location of leaks/repairs
	X.		23. CHIMNEY/FIREPLACE: Date last cleanedProblems?
			If not, explain
	Q.	ш	
			25. FLOORS: Type of floors under carpet/linoleum?Problems with floors (buckling, sagging, etc.)? Explain
-	-		
П		П	26. WALLS: a) INTERIOR Walls: Problems? Explain
	∀		b) EXTERIOR Walls: Problems? Explain,
П	abla	П	27. WINDOWS/SLIDING DOORS/DOORS: Problems or leaks? Explain,
\square	П		28. INSULATION: Does house have insulation? If yes, type Date installed Location
Н	Ø		29. ASBESTOS: Do you know whether asbestos is present in exterior shingles, pipecovering or boiler insulation? Has a fiber count been performed?
ш	X.	ш	If yes, attach copy
П			(See Asbestos disclosure Page 4)
ч	V I		30. LEAD PAINT: Is lead paint present? If yes, locations (attach copy of inspection reports)
	F28		If yes, describe abatement plan/interim controls, if any
	abla		Has paint been encapsulated? If yes, when and by whom? (See Lead Paint disclosure Page 4)
			31. RADON: Has test for radon been performed? If yes, attach copy
			(See Radon disclosure Page 4) 32. INSECTS: History of Termites/Wood Destroying Insects or Rodent Problems? If yes, explain treatment and dates
			(See Chlordane disclosure Page 4)
SELLER	'S INIT		BUYER'S INITIALS
		4	M. M



2 of 4

AN	SWEI	RS	
	\square		33. SWIMMING POOL/JACUZZI: Problems? Explain
abla			Name of service company
			35. Have you been advised of elevated levels of mold at the Property? Explain
YES	NO	UNKN	IV. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
	abla		36. Do you know of any other problem which may affect the value or use of the property which may not be obvious to a prospective buyer! Explain
yes	NO	UNKN	V. CONDOMINIUM INFORMATION 37. If converted to condominium, are documents recorded (Master deed/Unit deed etc.)?
	H		38. PARKING: Number of Spaces 2 Of those spaces, identify number that are 2 decded; exclusive easements; assigned; Unassigned or in common area? 39. CONDO FEES: Current monthly fees for Unit are \$ Heat included? Yes No P
H	H	Н	rical metadear res rio _w_
		Н	Electricity included? Yes No 40. RESERVE FUND: Has an advance payment been made to a condo reserve fund? If yes, how much \$ 437.85*
	abla		41. CONDO ASSOC. INFO: Is owners' association currently involved in any litigation?
	\square		42. Have you been advised of any matter which is likely to result in a special assessment or substantially increase condominium fees? Explain
YES	NO	UNKN	VI. RENTAL PROPERTY INFORMATION 43. NUMBER OF UNITS: 26
	Ц		Has a unit been added/subdivided since original construction? If yes, was a permit for new/added unit obtained? 44. RENTS: Number of units occupied unk Rents \$/month
H	F	Y	Expiration date of each lease Any tenants without leases? Is owner holding last month's rent security deposit?
П		⊠	If yes, has interest been paid? If security deposit held attach a copy of statements of condition. Attached Not attached 45. Is there any outstanding notice of any sanitary code violation? Yes No Explain
			Explain
			VII. ACKNOWLEDGMENT
to defend receipt of	and i	ndemnify	acknowledge that the information set forth above is true and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge. I (we) further agree the broker(s) and any subagents for disclosure of any on the information contained herein. Seller(s) further acknowledge Statement of Property Condition.
Date			Seller Gane DiGiacomo dotloop verified 09/11/17 z-22PM EDT KEU2-FHJU-LCCW-KBXQ Seller
Broker ha epresenta multi-fam or other corivate re	as not ation, aily, res alassific strictio	verified t verbal or sidential, cation is r ons by the	we Buyer acknowledges receipt of Seller's Statement of Property Condition before purchase. Buyer acknowledges that the information herein and Buyer has been advised to verify information independently. BUYER is not relying upon any written, from any real estate broker or licensee concerning legal use. Any reference to the category (single family, commercial) or the use of this property in any advertisement or listing sheet, including the number of units, number of rooms of a representation concerning legal use or compliance with zoning by-laws, building code, sanitary code or other public or broker. The BUYER understands that if this information is important to BUYER, it is the duty of the BUYER to seek advice a confirmation from the municipality.
Date <u>9/11</u> SELLER'S	www.var.va	LLS	Buyer Buyer Buyer Buyer 3 of 4

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This form is in use by: Use by anyone other than a participant in the transaction is strictly prohibited.

VIII. EXPLANATORY MATERIAL

The following clauses are provided for descriptive purposes only. For detailed information, consult the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, or other appropriate agency, or your attorney.

A. Flood Hazard Insurance Disclosure Clause (Question #8)

The lender may require Flood Hazard Insurance as a condition of the mortgage loan if the lender determines that the property is in a flood hazard zone.

B. Hazardous Materials Disclosure Clause (Question #10)

In certain circumstances Massachusetts law can hold an owner of real estate liable to pay for the cost of removing hazardous or toxic materials from real estate and for damages resulting from the release of such materials, according to the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release and Response Act, General Laws, Chapter 21E. The buyer acknowledges that he may have the property professionally inspected for the presence of, or the substantial likelihood of release of oil or hazardous material and such proof of inspection may be required as a prerequisite for financing the property.

C. Asbestos Disclosure Clause (Ouestion #29)

The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission has maintained that asbestos materials are hazardous if they release separate fibers which can be inhaled. Asbestos is a common insulation material on heating pipes, boilers, and furnaces. It may also be present in certain types of floor and ceiling materials, shingles, plaster products, cements and other building materials. The buyer may have the property professionally inspected for the presence of asbestos and if repair or removal of asbestos is desired, proper safety guidelines must be observed.

D. Lead Paint Disclosure Clause (Question #30)

Whenever a child under six years of age resides in any residential premises in which any paint, plaster or other accessible material contains dangerous levels of lead, the owner is required by law, to remove all said paint, plaster or cover with appropriate materials so as to make it inaccessible to a child under six years of age. Consumption of lead is poisonous and may cause serious personal injury. Whenever such residential premises containing dangerous levels of lead undergoes a change of ownership, as a result, a child under six years of age will become a resident, the new owner is required by law to remove said paint, plaster cover or encapsulate it with appropriate materials so as to make it inaccessible to such child. Buyer should receive information pamphlet from Department of Public Health.

E. Radon Disclosure Clause (Question #31)

Radon is an odorless, colorless, tasteless gas produced naturally in the ground by the normal decay of uranium and radium. Radon can lead to the development of radioactive particles which can be inhaled. Studies indicate the result of extended exposure to high levels of radon may increase the risk of developing lung cancer.

F. Chlordane Disclosure Clause (Question #32)

Pesticide products containing chlordane were banned in Massachusetts on June 11, 1985, following a determination by the Department of Food and Agriculture that the use of chlordane may cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment including risk of cancer. Although existing data does not conclusively prove that significant health effects have occurred as a direct result of chlordane use, the long-term potential health risks are such that is prudent public health policy, according to the Department, to eliminate the further introduction of chlordane into the environment.

G. Mold Information

Molds are naturally occurring organisms that exist both indoors and outdoors. More than 1000 different kinds of mold have been found in homes in the United States. Molds are fungi that reproduce by making spores. Spores are small and lightweight and able to travel through the air. Molds need moisture and food to grow and their growth is stimulated by warm, damp and humid conditions. Molds can use materials such as wood, paper, drywall and carpet as food sources. Reducing dampness indoors is often key to reducing the growth of mold. Depending on the level of mold, allergies, respiratory problems and other health consequences can be triggered in sensitive individuals. However, exposure to mold does not always result in health problems. As of July of 2002, U.S. governmental agencies reported that a determination had not been made what quantity of mold was acceptable in an indoor environment. For more information on mold, contact an engineer or other qualified mold inspector. Information may also be found at the web site for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, www.epa.gov.

H. Fair Housing Notice

It is unlawful to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religious creed, national origin, age, gender, sex, ancestry, marital status, veteran status, sexual orientation, disability, presence of a child, receipt of public assistance or other protected classification in the sale or rental of covered housing.







LETTER TO BUYERS AND SELLERS -

BEST PRACTICE FOR SMOOTH TRANSACTIONS

We ask parties to live by the golden rule when making or receiving an offer.

Treat the other side the way you would want to be treated.

Advice to sellers: if you receive an offer, respond to it in a timely manner. Work with the "bird in the hand." Buyers understandably get upset if they feel their offer is being leveraged for another offer that may or may not materialize. This alienates a potentially good buyer and gets negotiations off to a bad start.

Advice to buyers: make offers in good faith. If you find yourself in a position of multiple offers, or if you feel the only way to put a house under agreement when it is new to the market is to pay top price, then don't try to renegotiate the price after a home inspection. Only offer a price that you feel comfortable with and always assume that the house will need work and budget accordingly. All houses need work. Please be patient after submitting an offer. We often have to wait to get in touch with the seller who may need to talk to an attorney, spouse, partner or extended family. Expect a long delay if the owner is an estate or bank. We will do our best to explain the circumstances and respond to you as soon as we can. There are many reasons a response may not be immediately available – please try to understand. We know waiting can be anguishing.

The Purpose of a Home Inspection: Rules of the Road for Buyers and Sellers

Everyone needs to keep in mind that most of the housing stock we have here in Greater Boston and surrounding communities is USED. The purpose of a home inspection is to inform a buyer about what he or she is buying, not to renegotiate the sale price of a property. When potential Buvers are MAKING AN OFFER THEY SHOULD BUDGET TO SPEND THEIR OWN FUNDS TOWARD THE REPAIRS SUGGESTED BY THE HOME INSPECTOR. It would not be unusual for that sum to add up to many thousands of dollars. We ask all buyers to take this into consideration when they make their offer so that they don't feel they overpaid if they discover things that need to be fixed in the house. No house is perfect no matter how well maintained. We as REALTORS have priced a property taking into consideration its location, size, configuration, number of rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms, lot size and general condition. Buyers are always taken by surprise by the costs of maintenance and repairs to a house and want to renegotiate the price after home inspection. We ask that you don't shop in a price range that stretches your household budget so much you cannot assume the maintenance of a house. Do you have access to thousands and thousands of dollars over the next 5-10 years to take care of the items your home inspector will inevitably find? If not, you may not be a good match for a used house. So, except for some very expensive item that needs immediate repair that you could never have known about without an inspection, we expect the buyer to assume the house and its issues at closing. That is normal. We keep hearing from buyers, "I knew I'd have to do some work, but I just can't afford to go forward without a price adjustment." So we ask you to take this very real issue into consideration now, before you make an offer on a house you can't afford.

Buyer's	INITIALS		
		The state of the s	

It is the job of all home inspectors to highlight maintenance issues, look for pests and insects, point out needed repairs, assess structural condition and scrutinize major systems like plumbing, electric, heat and roof. Every home inspection, even in the best maintained home, turns up multiple issues. Commonly we find that a chimney or wall needs re-pointing, that fireplaces aren't lined, (new building codes require linings - however old fireplaces are often triple bricked which may in fact be a better, but more expensive way to build a chimney than today's current code requires). It is not uncommon for some electrical wire to be loose or not properly boxed or for homes to have knob and tube wiring. Expect to have to upgrade electrical service; today's buyers have needs for computers and equipment that many of our sellers never faced. We see that ropes in windows are broken, that older kitchens and baths do not have GFI outlets and that lots of physical things that currently exist do not meet updated building codes. Our older housing stock has older waste pipes, water services, heating systems, roofs, exterior shingles and gutters, facia boards and plumbing. It is typical for roofs to be installed without vents, and insulation not to be in keeping with your home inspector's recommendations. Powder Post Beetles and termites have left their damage scars in virtually all basements in older homes. When a basement is finished, a home inspector will tell you that he can't determine what is going on in the sills and joists behind the covered walls, so take that into consideration now when you make your offer. We don't want you backing out of the deal later because you don't know what is covered up in the finished basement.

Another very common issue in our 19th c. homes is settling and sloping. Some home inspectors will sound the alarm of structural problems when floors tip. If you see tree trunk columns in the basement, know that a home inspector will suggest you put in steel columns in concrete footings (at about \$1500 apiece – the seller has lived without steel columns – so this is a buyer's expense – budget accordingly.) In the homes we own, we think of the slanting floors as part of the charm. If you don't want that charm, don't make an offer on a home with floors that aren't level. Buyers should not expect sellers to upgrade a house for them. Every buyer should expect most, if not all, of these things in our beautiful older housing stock.

We ask everyone to further understand that every home inspector has his own opinion as to the proper maintenance of a home. Please remember that the issues that are brought up by the home inspector have probably not been a concern to the current homeowner. (The house is functioning fine from their perspective and they may like their old fuses... and the corrosion on the pipe feeding the laundry has never leaked... they are used to the windows that won't stay up...they've been having fires in their fireplaces for years, ...etc.)

Please do not expect a seller to negotiate on something visible to the eye: tree roots uprooting sidewalks, tree limbs or trees too close to the house, cracked tile in the bathroom or cracked windows, rotting bulkhead doors, gutters that are broken or disconnected, etc. We expect that you have carefully seen the property and that problems that are in plain view have been taken into consideration when you make an offer. Also, expect a home inspector to recommend maintenance items like servicing the heating system or cleaning the gutters. The purpose of the home inspection is not to compensate a buyer for the perfect house, but to make them aware of the items they will need to address when they buy the home. Again, these are buyer's expenses and should be anticipated.

Just because a home inspector recommends a lightening rod, updated electrical system, vinyl siding, new storms and screens, GFI outlets or lining the chimney, does not mean that the seller should be responsible for these or any other improvements for the new buyer. (We have witnessed home inspectors recommending things that we feel would hurt the value of a property!)

A significant sea change has occurred in the way pest control companies look at homes for pest problems, most notably termites. Until recently pest companies only recommended treatment if there were signs of active termites in the house. Today, many pest companies, concerned about liability, are recommending treatments for every home they come out to review. Rotting wood near the ground, termite activity in landscape timbers and under rocks near the foundation and termite damage in porches and sills are common, and most companies are recommending treatment even if the damage is a century old. It is also the policy of many chemical companies not to distinguish between old and active termite damage. It is the policy of many companies to always recommend treatment if there is any evidence of damage, past or present. Because it is evident that some termite or wood boring insect damage is present in almost every property that we list we would like to set a standard for negotiations. We believe it is a seller's responsibility to treat for termite damage if, and only if, termite mud tubes are found to be present in the structure of the main house or an attached garage or if there is evidence of "swarming". This is the industry standard for active termites. We also believe that all buyers who elect to have a pest inspection should be prepared to follow up on the recommended treatment of the pest control company after they purchase their house if mud tubes or swarming are not present. Sheds and detached garages are not considered the main house and are very attractive to pests. Buyers should be prepared to treat those structures when they purchase a home as normal home maintenance and not expect the seller to compensate them for such.

On occasion there are major issues which cannot be known to the buyer, or perhaps even the seller, without the more in-depth investigation usually done by a home inspector or specialist, (e.g. extensive termite damage). There is a possibility that such an issue might require negotiating and/or repair. A cash settlement may be warranted so that work can be done to the satisfaction of the new owner.

ADVICE FOR BUYERS

If you want to make the terms of your offer more favorable to a seller you should agree to do your home inspection within three days of an accepted offer and sign a purchase and sale as soon thereafter as possible. Sellers cannot accept other offers while you have it under agreement, and they lose valuable marketing time not knowing whether or not their deal is solid. A deal is solid when there is a fully executed Purchase and Sale and if the bank has issued a commitment letter. Also, please disclose to seller in writing if you will be using a government loan (FHA or VA) when you make your offer. Under no circumstance will the seller consider an offer contingent on the closing of the buyer's property. Every transaction has inherent risk for both parties. A buyer who attempts to eliminate all risk on their end creates high risk for the seller which is simply unacceptable. A buyer cannot expect the seller to assume all the risk. Consult a real estate attorney.

WARNING - It is our experience that many banks/mortgage companies are very eager for your loan and will promise you the moon but are having difficulty delivering on their promises. (Read: the loan you get at closing isn't the one you thought you were getting.) In addition to causing delay with some financing, there are a lot of bank/mortgage operations that are using attorneys, appraisers, surveyors and title examiners who do not complete their work in time to meet the financing deadline. Unfortunately, many buyers who are purchasing homes we have listed have experienced carelessness, oversights and ineptness with the bank they have chosen and are unable to close on time. New TRID regulations are challenging. The buyer's deposit (five percent of a sale price) is at risk if they are unable to perform or close on the date required by their contract. It is not unreasonable for the seller to want a large sum of money to agree to extend the closing in order to bridge their next purchase or to compensate them for not closing on time. We are happy to provide a long list of reliable lenders, but if a buyer chooses to work with someone else and the closing is delayed, we will consider the buyer forewarned, and will be less likely to be sympathetic when trouble arises from a bank that is not on our list of reliable lenders. Buyers can also request that a local attorney be used to do the conveyancing which tends to streamline the process. Buyers may, of course, use the bank of their choosing but it is our goal for every transaction to go smoothly. We have learned that the people we rely upon will do a good job for their clients, the buyer (s). This warning is simply to prevent any misery in the buyer's life. We would be glad to furnish names of people who wish they had taken this advice.

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