

REAL ESTATE NEWS

Home a high priority despite declining ownership rate

(AP) — Americans believe a single-family home with a yard is the place to live, and they're willing to make large sacrifices to achieve that dream, a survey shows. The survey, conducted for the Federal National Mortgage Association, by Fannie Mae, suggested that 80 percent of Americans identify the "traditional single-family detached home with a yard as the ideal place to live."

The Census Bureau says Americans were less likely to own a home at the end of the 1980s than they were a decade earlier. A study shows 63.9 percent of households owned their homes in 1989, down from 65.6 percent in 1980. A major reason for the decline in ownership, according to the Fannie Mae survey, is affordability. Seven out of eight respondents identified that as a "serious problem."

It is not worth it to financially overextend themselves to own a home, it found. "Only one in three thought it was worth it to place a young child in day care so the mother could work, even if this was a necessary step to become a home owner." For most Americans, home ownership provides a degree of financial, psychological and familial security, the poll found. "The feeling of financial security stems from the belief that owning a home is financially worthwhile, with 78 percent believing owning a home is a good investment, while only 2 percent consider it a poor one," it showed.

Old Glory an exception to rule banning exterior signage

Our candidate enacted that gives co-owners the right to display a United States flag, up to three-by-five feet in size, anywhere on the exterior of the condominium unit. This right supersedes any restrictions imposed by a condominium association but puts to rest the controversy that arose recently resulting in litigation. My husband and I own and operate a seasonal motel in northern Michigan. We heard that a new law may require us to make specific accommodations for patrons with disabilities. Can you tell us more about this law?

The American Disabilities Act (ADA) now requires places of lodging, among other places of public accommodations, to provide persons with disabilities with accommodations and access equal to or similar to that available to the general public. As of Jan. 26, such public accommodations also must provide auxiliary aids and services to insure effective communications with persons with hearing, vision or speech disabilities, provided that such actions do not constitute an "undue burden" on the public facility. These might include Braille or large print materials, or telecommunication devices for deaf persons.

ask for IHS publication No. 907, "Tax Information for Handicapped and Disabled Individuals." Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham attorney concentrating his practice in the areas of condominium, real estate and corporate law. You are invited to submit topics you would like to see discussed in this column by writing Robert M. Meisner at 30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 467, Birmingham Farms 48025. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.



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301 Open Houses, 301 Open Houses, 301 Open Houses, 302 Birmingham Bloomfield, 302 Birmingham Bloomfield, 302 Birmingham Bloomfield. Listings for various properties in Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER. Answer to Previous Puzzle. A crossword puzzle grid with clues and the previous puzzle's answers.

BUY OF THE WEEK. SOUTHDALE, NORTON, WING LAKE, BETHLEHEM, NORTONVILLE, SOUTHDALE, NORTON, WING LAKE, BETHLEHEM, NORTONVILLE. Real estate listings with photos and descriptions.

BLOOMFIELD HILLS. Beautifully maintained vintage Dutch Colonial with over 100 ft. frontage on Wing Lake. 1 1/2 acres with lovely European gardens. Cranbrook. BLOOMFIELD HILLS. Beautifully maintained vintage Dutch Colonial with over 100 ft. frontage on Wing Lake. 1 1/2 acres with lovely European gardens.

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