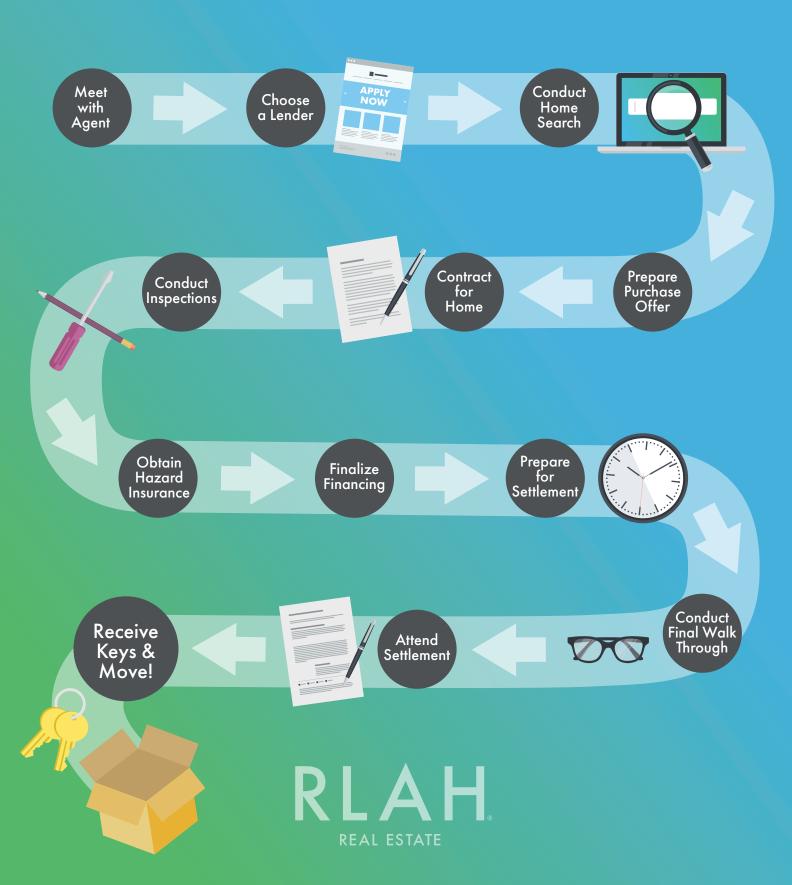


Home Buying

Home Buyer Wish List

Locations:
Bedrooms:
Bathrooms:
Garage (Y/N, Detached/Attached):
Home Type:
Yard (Y/N):
Basement (Full / Partial / Finished / Unfinished):
Describe Your Ideal Home
Are there any special features or needs that you want to consider when looking for your home?
How much renovation are you willing to do?
Do you have to be close to public transportation?
Do you have any pets? Do they have any needs as you look for a home?
Do you have any physical needs that must be met, such as wheelchair access?
If we found your ideal home today, are you in a position to write an offer immediately?
Would you like to live in an area with a community association?
If we could time this perfectly, when would you like to move into your new home?
Have you purchased a home in the past, and what was that experience like?

Home Purchase Timeline



Financing

It is tempting to focus only on the interest rate and the loan program when selecting your lender, but there is a lot more to it. Finding the right lender is incredibly important.

Consider these characteristics when selecting your lender:

- 1) Responsiveness
- 2) Experience
- 3) Location of their office and underwriters
- 4) Prequalification processes

Your lender will use employment, credit, and financial information to form the estimate of a mortgage that you can afford. Your lender should provide you with different loan scenarios, which will break down your monthly mortgage payment.

Here is a small checklist of items to discuss with your lender:

- ☐ What will my down payment amount be?
- ☐ Are you receiving a financial gift from a family member?
- ☐ Is the market bearing a scenario in which you can ask for closing cost assistance from the seller if that is needed?
- ☐ Does my earnest money deposit get applied to my down payment?

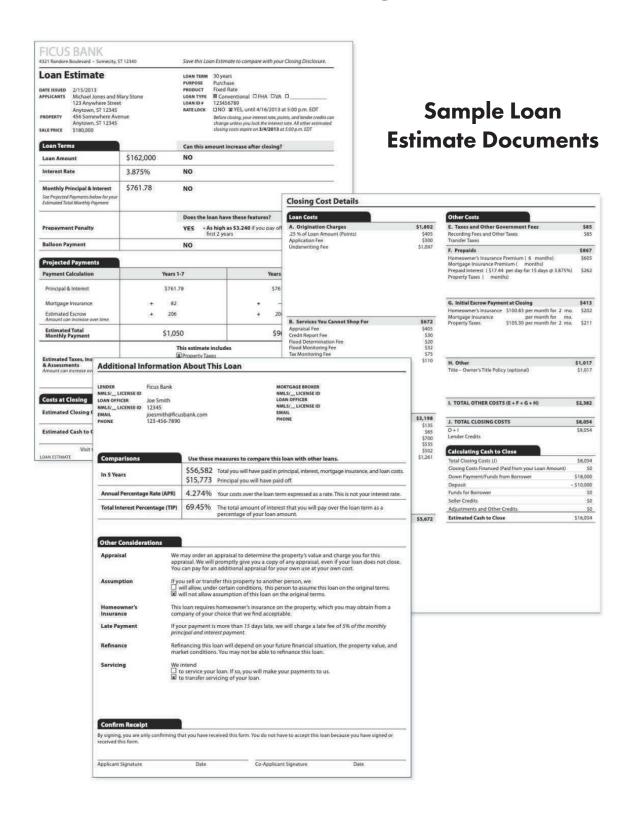
If you'd like, I can provide copies and samples of the following:

- Financial information sheet
- Loan Estimate
- What a good lender pre-approval letter looks like

Need recommendations on where to start? I have a list of lenders I recommend.



Financing



TIP: The type of loan you are receiving and the amount for the down payment may have an effect on the outcome of a potential offer you write on a property.

All Real Estate is Local

How does transacting in the purchase of a home in the DMV differ from other areas of the country?

Agents Write Contracts

In some states, you'll see attorneys writing the contract. In the DMV, real estate agents are using boilerplate forms provided by the local REALTOR® association and the brokerage. When the time comes to write an offer on the property of choice, your REALTOR® will spell out the terms and write it for you. Either party, buyer or seller, always has the right to have an attorney review the contract, but most of the time that is not needed. All terms of the contract are legal and binding, so it is important to include all terms of the sale.

Earnest Money Deposits

Typically 1-5% of the sales price. In a seller's market, we will see higher percentages. It is always important to review all terms of the contract and how they work together.

Appliances Are Typically Included In The Sales Price

In the DMV, it is common that most appliances are included in conveyances. The listing will specify what is and is not included in the sale, and the purchase agreement will dictate what conveys.

Housing Costs are Different

It is important to note that prices vary from area to area in the DMV, and prices as a whole may be very different from what buyers see in other parts of the country.

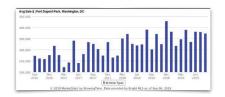
Transactions Typically Close Quickly

A number of factors contribute to a selected closing date, but in the DMV we typically see an average escrow period of 25-40 days if there is a loan involved, and sometimes quicker depending on competition and if the home is being purchased all cash.

The Home Search

Essential Data Provided to Buyers

As your full-time real estate professional at RLAH, I have access to software, tools, and data unavailable to most. All agents are expected to "pull comps," but we believe due diligence should go deeper for a real estate purchase. We'll make sure that you're more knowledgable than others that you might be competing with, leading to a favorable outcome.

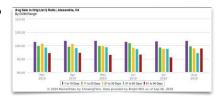


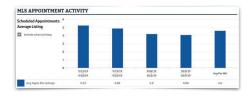
What are pricing trends over recent years?

If prices have been increasing, you may expect to see an increase after you purchase. An appreciating asset may be worth purchasing, as equity is trending in a positive direction.

How much should we offer based on timing?

Properties typically sell for the most amount of money in the first few days on the market. You'll need to know if you're in a market where properties sell for above the asking price.



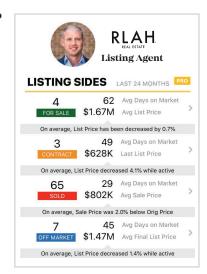


How many buyers are we competing with?

If you are competing with less buyers, you can obtain more favorable terms. Conversely, if a plethora of buyer activity is centered around your search, sellers have reason to be confident and offer less concessions.

Does the listing agent typically price correctly?

While the seller ultimately determines the asking and accepted price, having insight into the listing agent's "Sales Price to List Price" ratio lets us know what to expect as far as the agent's influence.



The Home Search

What if you don't find anything?

Hang in there! New listings are constantly coming on the market.

We could also look at revising the wish list!

Common Search Criteria Adjustments

- 1) Price range: if financially possible, moving up in a price range might open up more options.
- 2) Type: Detached, townhouse, condominium, or coop? Maybe consider another type of home which still meet essential needs.
- 3) Size: Perhaps living without an extra bedroom, garage, or family room.
- 4) Location: Often a tradeoff is location of home or less home in the right location.
- 5) Proximity to Public Transportation: Would you like to be walking distance to metro? How does having public transportation accessible affect property values.
- 6) A space for your pet: if you are purchasing in a building, is the building pet-friendly?



When We Find the Right Home

When we find the right home, we will try our best to make sure of a few items in advance:

☐ Is the property fully available? Sometimes list	ings can appear active, when
in fact they are not.	
\square Are there other offers on the property? How r	many offers? Is there an offer
deadline involved?	
☐ When and how will offers be presented to the	e seller?
What closing date is important to the seller? A should consider?	Are there other terms we
\square Conveyances. What is being sold with the pro	perty and what is going with
the seller when they leave?	
 A detailed market analysis will help determine 	e what price to offer.

There are a few ways to approach an offer:

- 1) If there is competition a buyer will want to make their offer as strong as possible.
- 2) If there is no competition a buyer might want to consider their own needs.
- 3) What if competition enters the picture?
- 4) DOM and have there been any price adjustments?

Sometimes the terms of an offer can make it more attractive than others. We will look at closing date, earnest money deposit amounts, down payment options, shorter contingency time frames, or removing certain contingencies depending on the property and demand.



Preparing Your Purchase Offer



The main objective in constructing an offer is to purchase the home at the most favorable terms possible. As your agent, I will try to find out what the seller's critical needs are.

Here are examples of areas of negotiation when constructing an offer:

- 1) Offer / Purchase Price amount of money the seller will be receiving for their home.
- 2) Subsidies seller closing cost credit for example (remember reducing the net proceeds to the seller will reduce ability to negotiate on price, and subsidy amounts may be limited depending on lender financing).
- 3) Deposits the earnest money deposit signifies the buyer's commitment to the transaction.
- 4) Settlement & Occupancy this is the second most important term to the seller next to price. if you can settle when the seller wishes to move, this is the best-case scenario. Are you willing to allow post-settlement occupancy if the seller needs it?
- 5) Property Condition typically most offers include a contingency for a satisfactory home inspection report.
- 6) Inclusions & Exclusions the seller will include certain items with the sale of the home, we will make sure the offer is clear in accurately reflecting conveyances.
- 7) Contingencies a contingency is a clause which states that the buyer will perform only if another condition is met. Typical contingencies include appraisal, financing, home inspection / radon test, or the sale of a current home. The fewer contingencies an offer contains, the more desirable to the seller. Let's discuss pre-offer inspections and what they mean.

The Purchase Offer

As your REALTOR®, it is my job to demonstrate your ability to purchase by delivering a clean, complete, and well-written offer. What does this mean? We will make sure to include in the offer package some or all of the following:

☐ Lender Preliminary Pre-Approval letter	
☐ Bank Statements if providing a cash offer	
☐ Copy of Earnest Money Deposit check (let's discuss EMDs!)	
☐ A completed purchase offer document which I will write on your behalf	
Contract cover letter from me summarizing the attractiveness of your offe	r

What is a Love Letter?

Depending on the property, as a buyer you can draft a letter to present with the purchase offer to the seller. This sometimes help form a relationship with the seller. You can describe why you love the home and why you would love to live there. This also helps to differentiate your offer from others that might come in.

We do everything possible to get you the best deal!

Please remember that no matter what the condition of the market, you may or may not be competing with other buyers when you make your offer. Even in markets where supply is high, some very desirable homes will attract more buyer interest. The amount of room you have to negotiate either price or terms will depend on both the general supply and demand factors and on the specific quality of the property you wish to purchase



Negotiating

Negotiating in the DMV

It is my job as your agent to negotiate on your behalf. But the negotiation doesn't stop after we have a ratified contract. It may continue into inspections as well.

An ability to negotiate the price and terms on any property depends on four things:

- Your ability to be a qualified and flexible buyer
- Desirability of the home
- Motivation of the seller
- State of the market

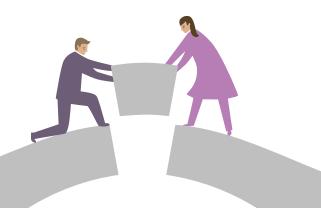
Three Different Types of Markets

In a buyer's market: homes stay on the market longer, creating more choices and more leverage for a buyer.

In a seller's market: homes may last only a few weeks or days. It is not unusual for properties with more than one interested buyer to sell over asking price, sometimes with the use of escalation clauses, and flexible terms for the buyer become scarce or non-existent.

In a balanced market: highly desirable homes sell quickly and at higher prices, while others take more time and flexible terms are found more often with homes taking longer to sell.

What type of market are we seeing today? Let's discuss!



Under Contract

Ratified Contract

You have a ratified, enforceable contract when...

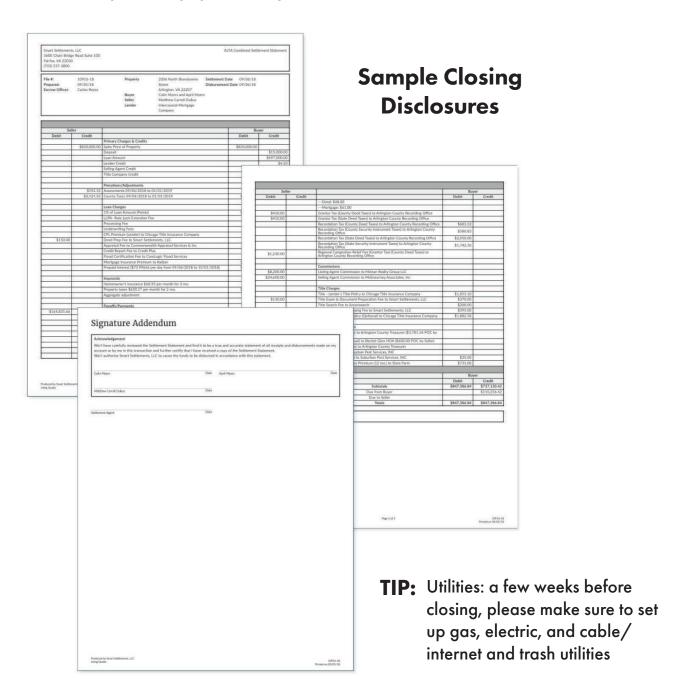
All parties have agreed, in writing to all the terms without addition or amendment; and...

A copy of the fully executed contract is delivered to the other party.

CONTRACT CHECKLIST Disburse a copy of the completely ratified contract to all parties: lender, settlement company, and RLAH. Schedule a time for home inspection, or other inspections. Lender will order and schedule appraisal. Discuss locking interest rate with lender, and finalizing loan documents. Buyer will need to set up homeowner's insurance on property. I'm happy to recommend a home inspector, pest inspector and other contractors that might be needed.

Preparing for Closing

A time for settlement will be scheduled as we get closer to the closing date. I will stay in constant communication with the lender, settlement company, and others to ensure a smooth transaction! We will do a final walk through in the final few days leading up to closing.



My Value: An Invaluable Resource

No Cost to You

Working with an exclusive buyer's agent doesn't cost you anything. I am paid, along with the listing agent, by the seller once the seller's home is sold.

One Point of Contact

A buyer shouldn't have to repeat themselves. I will listen to your needs and wants, and will get a true sense of what you are looking for in a home. Having one designated resource for all things real estate frees up your time.

Personal Negotiator

I will help you evaluate and prioritize during the negotiation process, along with steadfastly representing your interests and confidentiality. By working with me, you are not limiting yourself to specific properties, and I can help you buy any home that's for sale, from FSBOs to listings of another company.

Accessibility

I work hard to keep communication with my clients consistent and comprehensive, and will check in frequently throughout the purchase process. I'm happy to customize communication to your preferred style whether via phone, email, text, or face-to-face.

Closing & Beyond

It is my goal to be your real estate resource for life, and your contact for all things house and home.

Recommended Vendors

Reach out to me for any recommended vendors, such as home inspectors, painters, flooring companies, and more.

Home Trends & Market Data

Curious what your home might be worth after making updates, or wondering what the real estate market is doing? I'm a consistent resource for market knowledge, and can always run a market analysis for you.

Files & Document Storage

Need paperwork from your transaction to share with your accountant? I keep a record and have access to contract documents for a number of years following closing.

Future Communications

I can add you to my mailing list so you can periodically receive valuable information!





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About Agent

Kelly Millspaugh Thompson your Realtor with a Designers eye. Kelly is a native of Northern Virginia and therefor very familiar with all the areas has to offer no matter what your budget. She also owns a home furnishing and design business in Falls Church City that she has owned for ten years called Stylish Patina. She has a passion for helping her clients find a house and make it a home. She has all the resources to help you find your ideal home or list your home for top dollar.

About RLAH

Because transacting in home sales requires more work than any one person can do, RLAH stands behind the agent & helps with a multitude of tasks along the way. Through record breaking sales in 2019 and the best combination of involved leadership, accessibility, personalized support, education, and resources, RLAH works behind the scenes to meet clients' needs by empowering the REALTOR®.

About Berkshire Hathaway

Our connection with Berkshire Hathaway brings the strength of a large franchise to the flexibility and expertise of local ownership. RLAH Real Estate is a member of the largest real estate network in the world through Berkshire Hathaway Home Services of America.









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