



March 2019

NEWS BRIEF

Residential

Are Closing Costs Tax Deductible Under the New Tax Law?

Here's the scoop on what's tax deductible when buying a house.

By: Leanne Potts, *HouseLogic.com*, February 11, 2019

Read more: <https://www.houselogic.com/finances-taxes/taxes/are-closing-costs-tax-deductible>

Decoding the New Flood Insurance Regulation

A joint ruling by banking regulators will implement the provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 to require mortgage lenders and credit unions to accept certain private flood insurance policies in addition to policies under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

By: Radhika Ojha, *DSNews*, February 12, 2019

Read more: <https://dsnews.com/daily-dose/02-12-2019/decoding-the-new-flood-insurance-regulation>

The High-Priority Home Features for Buyers

Laundry rooms and Energy Star-compliant windows topped the list of what buyers considered the most essential or desirable features in a home, according to the National Association of Home Builders' 2019 What Home Buyers Really Want report.

By: Melissa Dittmann Tracey, *REALTOR® Magazine*, February 21, 2019

Read more: <https://magazine.realtor/daily-news/2019/02/21/the-high-priority-home-features-for-buyers>

What is the Impact of Student Loan Debt on House-Buying Power?

Contrary to many reports, student loan debt is not an insurmountable barrier to homeownership for millennials.

By: Odeta Kushi, *FirstAm Economic Center*, February 15, 2019

Read more: <https://blog.firstam.com/economics/what-is-the-impact-of-student-loan-debt-on-house-buying-power>

Homebuyers: How They've Changed in Recent Years

An analysis by the National Association of Home Builders examined the characteristics of two home buyer subsets: first-time home buyers and trade-up buyers (those who previously owned a home), to provide deeper insight into the types of households driving housing market activity.

By: Stephanie Bacot, *MReport*, February 18, 2019

Read more: <https://themreport.com/daily-dose/02-18-2019/homebuyers-how-theyve-changed-in-recent-years>

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Commercial

Expectations and Market Realities in Real Estate in 2019

Investors are traveling into uncharted territory as the US economy's expansion surpasses its 10-year anniversary in July 2019, which would break the record for the longest economic expansion since the government started collecting records in the 1850s.

By: Deloitte, *National Association of REALTORS® and Situs RERC*, February 5, 2019

Read more: <https://www.nar.realtor/research-and-statistics/research-reports/expectations-and-market-realities-in-real-estate>

Real Estate and Art: The Perfect Pairing?

Want to get your buildings in front of people's eyes and increase retail sales in the area? Hire an artist.

By: Chris Gardner, *CTG Real Estate Services*, February 22, 2019

Read more: <https://ctgrealestateservices.com/commercial-real-estate-artistic-potential>

In America's College Town, Schools Face Pressures to Sell Land, Build More or Close

Two nuns and big pharma walked into a real estate meeting 20 years ago, and they walked out with what could be a model for cash-strapped colleges across the country.

By: Cameron Sperance, *Bisnow Boston*, February 12, 2019

Read more: <https://www.bisnow.com/boston/news/land/can-real-estate-assets-bail-out-all-800-at-risk-us-colleges-probably-not-97467>

REALTORS® Expand Reach of Accelerator Program

Having played a key role in the rise of venture capital in the real estate space, the National Association of Realtors® strategic investment arm will expand its accelerator program into the commercial real estate market.

By: Ernie Smith, *Associations Now*, February 25, 2019

Read more: <https://associationsnow.com/2019/02/realtors-expand-reach-of-accelerator-program>

Navigating the Risks of Blockchain Technology in Commercial Real Estate

Cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ether continue to dominate the headlines; but these tokens could not exist without blockchain.

By: Eric Sherman and Marion Harris, *Commercial Observer*, February 13, 2019

Read more: <https://commercialobserver.com/2019/02/navigating-the-risks-of-blockchain-technology-in-commercial-real-estate>