

Realities of Aging in Place

Aging and its challenges are often discussed in clinical ways and sometime in ways that feel a bit abstract.

"Gray Area," (<http://bit.ly/2t3FDHA>) <https://www.grayareapodcast.nyc/aging-in-place/> a podcast about growing old in New York by students at Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, eliminates that distance and places you squarely in the day-to-day realities of those dealing the challenges of aging.

Puts you square in the ret that's why the podcast disconnected from the day-to-day realities real-world

One episode focuses on Jackie Hershops, a 70-something South Orange, N.J., woman who is finding ways around the aging-in-place obstacles that every senior eventually faces.

She solves some of the isolation and loneliness dangers by renting out rooms in her house. That also brings in some extra cash, and someone is around to shovel snow and help her in an emergency.

She's one of the lucky seniors who is lucid, mobile, and lives in a relatively age-friendly spot, so she's also been able to stay connected and involved with her community.

Yet she's keenly aware of the obstacles ahead.

Like so many seniors, she regularly debates whether to stay in her house or go. She explores her living options, including local independent living facilities, a move to Florida, or an intergenerational community in New York. There is no perfect solution.

Not one is a perfect option. Keeps looking. Like so many others in her position, she's found no perfect solution. Pondering her options and looking squarely at her options well aware of the possibility

Other podcast episodes address the heavy burden of financial and physical limitations of aging and caretaking and another looks at adapting to life as a senior after a stint in prison.

Though compelling, the podcast is not easy listening.

Good Fences Make Good Neighbors?

You may think you're alone in your quiet – and maybe not so quiet-- battles with neighbors, but it turns out that few who share walls or property lines emerge unscathed by the experience.

Being neighbors can be fraught with squabbles and annoyances.

Porch (<http://bit.ly/2t5VXaL>) (<https://porch.com/resource/annoying-neighbors>) did a survey to find out how we all annoy our neighbors.

It turns out that baby boomers cause a good deal of aggravation and were found to be a more combative generation when compared to millennials or Gen Xers.

Twenty-three percent of millennials and 28 percent of Gen Xers reported getting into either a verbal or physical altercation with a neighbor. Baby boomers? Thirty-three percent have had such a confrontation.

The survey asked respondents to rate some common irritants and baby boomers rated each one as more annoying than younger generations did. Among the three, the older group, for example, was the most annoyed by neighbors who didn't properly care for their property.

Here are the top 8 annoyances:

- Frequently intrude on the privacy of others
- Be loud or noisy
- Refuse to pick up after their pet
- Park in a space that isn't theirs
- Leave children unsupervised
- Call the police on another neighbor
- Leave notes on a neighbor's door instead of speaking face to face

It's no surprise that getting to know your neighbors can help to keep the peace.

Beware and try to be a good neighbor.

Landscaping Upgrades ROI, joy[®]

July is prime time for lounging around in the yard.

If you look around and think your outdoor space could use some sprucing up, see the National

Association of Realtors[®] and National Association of Landscape Professionals' *2018 Remodeling Report: Outdoor Features* study. It looks at the outdoor projects that bring the most joy, those that deliver the best ROI, and those that appeal most to buyers.

REALTOR[®] rank of projects' appeal to buyer (highest to lowest)
1. Standard Lawn Care Service
2. Landscape Maintenance
3. Overall Landscape Upgrades
4. Tree Care
5. New Wood Deck
6. New Patio
7. Landscape Lighting
8. Fire Feature
9. Irrigation System Installation
10. Statement Landscape
11. Outdoor Kitchen
12. Pool
13. Water Features

REALTORS[®], consumers, and landscape professionals all weighed in for the study. For details on specific project types, see <http://bit.ly/2JUfzoD>.

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