

Politically Correct? MLS Makes the Switch From 'Master Bedroom' to 'Primary Bedroom'

Following George Floyd's murder and the subsequent "great reckoning" of systemic racism in America, a movement took shape to abandon the term "master bedroom" or "master suite" because of its undertone of enslavement.

At the time, I quipped that I didn't favor the change to "primary bedroom" since we don't refer to "guest bedrooms" as "slave quarters."

I had a more serious objection, however, which was that the master bathroom is often just a toilet and a sink, which is okay, but changing it to the "primary bathroom" makes no sense at all. Yet, that's exactly what many MLSs, including REcolorado, have chosen to do.

I noticed this change while was entering a new listing earlier in March. Not only must new listings use the new terminology, but all the older listings on the MLS had room names changed from "master" to "primary." And, yes, even a 1/4 bathroom (just a single fixture, such as a sink) can now be entered in the MLS as the "primary bathroom." Seems a little weird, doesn't it?

There had been some discussion of renaming the master bedroom the "owner's" bedroom, but that was dismissed because it wouldn't seem right if the property was a rental rather than owner-occupied.

What I suggest for the "primary bathroom" issue is to introduce the

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term "en suite bathroom," meaning any bathroom that is attached solely to one bedroom. A home often has more than one bedroom with its own private bathroom, so that would be good.

That raises the question of what to do about homes (such as my own) which have two master suites. You can't really call the second master bedroom a second "primary" bedroom — that would be a contradiction in terms. At the same time, you couldn't really call it a "secondary" bedroom.

Silicon Valley has a more serious problem when it comes to the use of "master." In the computer field it is common to refer to a primary server or other device as the "master" and to refer to the devices under its control as "slaves." *Wired* magazine, in a July 2020 article, reported that since 1976 more than 67,000 patents have been issued using that terminology.

GitHub, a software development platform owned by Microsoft, got on the politically correct bandwagon, according to the *Wired* article, and has abandoned "master," leaving it to developers to adopt a replacement term. There is, however, some resistance among developers, as reported in this paragraph from the *Wired* article:

Dwayne Slater, a developer in San Jose, is one of more than 3,000 people who signed a petition oppos-

ing GitHub dropping the word master. The petition calls such moves "distractions, not solutions," and says it "creates confusion and unnecessary work for developers." Slater, who is Black, wrote in the comments, "To see GitHub use the color of my skin to make meaning-

less change is a slap in the face. There are more useful causes to bring to attention, words are not the issue, police brutality in the United States is the issue."

Let me know your thoughts about this topic. I may want to share them in a future column.

'The Net Zero Store' Is Now Open, Its Parking Lot Hosting April 2nd Electric Car Roundup

When Golden Real Estate moved from 17695 S. Golden Road to 1214 Washington Avenue in downtown Golden, I announced that our previous location (which Rita and I still own) would become **The Net Zero Store**, where products and services would be sold to help homeowners make their homes more sustainable and perhaps even "net zero energy."

That building is a perfect location for such a one-stop shop for "all things sustainable" because it is itself a net zero energy building. Its 20 kW of solar panels generate all the energy to heat, cool and power the building and to provide free EV charging to the general public.

No building can be net zero energy so long as it uses natural gas, so we had the gas meter removed in 2017 and now heat the building with a Mitsubishi heat pump mini-split system.

The opening of **The Net Zero Store** coincides with this Saturday's **Electric Vehicle Roundup** in the

building's parking lot. As of this writing, 36 owners of 18 different models of EVs, including a **Rivian pickup truck**, have registered for the event, and 86 people have registered as attendees. You can register at www.DriveElectricWeek.info.

The EV Roundup is this **Saturday, April 2nd, from 3 to 6 pm.**

Partnering as the chief tenant of **The Net Zero Store** is **Helio**, a business that is already deeply involved in retrofitting existing homes to be more energy efficient. You're invited to come in during the EV Roundup to learn how you can lower your own home's carbon footprint, whether with heat pumps, insulation, sun tunnels, geothermal heating or solar PV.

Also participating in the Electric Vehicle Roundup is **Clean Energy Credit Union**, which specializes exclusively in financing sustainable improvements for your home as well as auto loans solely for electric vehicles. Look for their booth on our patio during the event.

Price Reduced on Ranch Home Across From CSM

Jim Smith's listing at **1009 19th Street**, across from the Colorado School of Mines welcome center, is now listed at \$1,175,000. Take a narrated video tour at www.SouthGoldenHome.com.

Golden Ranch Listed by David Dlugasch

This charming home at **17208 W. 16th Ave.** in the Southridge section of Golden needs a bit of upgrading but has been very well maintained. The three main-level bedrooms have hardwood floors and double closets. The master bedroom has a 3/4 bath. The eat-in kitchen is spacious with a sliding door leading to a covered 12'x11' deck, great for entertaining and BBQs. All of the windows have been replaced with newer double-paned vinyl windows. The basement's large family room has a wood-burning fireplace, and you can walk out to a covered patio area. There is a 4th bedroom, served by another 3/4 bath in the basement, which also has a kitchen area with a refrigerator, stove and sink. The main level is freshly painted. Find more pictures and narrated video tour at www.SouthridgeHome.info. Open house is **Sat., April 2nd, 11 to 2.**



Ranch Home Backing to Green Gables Park

This home at **1549 S. Flower Court** is on a pie-shaped lot at the end of a cul-de-sac in Lakewood's Clover Meadows subdivision. This is a quiet neighborhood with no through traffic. With no homes behind this one, it has mountain views. Built in 1979, it's a solid brick/frame home with 4 bedrooms and 2 baths plus a partially finished basement. At this price, it can be expected to sell quickly, so take a look at the pictures and narrated video tour at www.LakewoodHome.info, then come to the open house this **Saturday, April 2nd, from 11 am to 1 p.m.** Or call your agent or **Jim Smith** at **303-525-1851** to request a private showing.



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