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'Designed to Sell' has South Hills connection

Dynamic duo are brother and sister

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South Hills natives Terry Haas and Shane Tallant are hosts of TV show on HGTV to help people sell their homes.



Terry Haas

next move was to San Francisco, where he hosted a daily magazine show, and appeared on the Oxygen network's reality show, Making it Big.

While in San Francisco, Tallant had the opportunity to interview numerous celebrities including Robin Williams, Jennifer Aniston, Owen Wilson, John Travolta, Halle Barry, Will Smith, and Angelina Jolie. When asked about his favorite interview, Tallant said it was probably Steven Tyler of Aerosmith because he's always been a fan of the group.

Tallant's work has garnered several awards, including an Emmy. He was voted Best Program Host in 2005 for WB's The MIXX, and was selected as one of the top three Up and Coming Entertainment Reporters in the US and Canada by the Oxygen network.

After seven years in entertainment, Tallant is looking forward to this next step in his career as part of a national show. While he's been polishing his skills for years in media, the hiring of Haas was what Tallant described as a fluke.

Fans of HGTV's *Designed to Sell* have a special reason to watch this fall: the show's newest hosts are former South Hills residents.

Terry Haas, a graduate of Keystone Oaks High School, now lives in northern Virginia with her husband, Tim. She started her career in real estate more than 10 years ago in Atlanta, and most recently served as regional project manager in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In 2003, Haas was awarded the sales director of the year by the northern Virginia Building Industry Association.

Haas' younger brother, Shane Tallant, graduated from Peters Township High School, and then attended Flagler College in St. Augustine, Fla., on a baseball scholarship. He started his career as a VJ with a UPN affiliate in Jacksonville, Fla., and then returned to his hometown as an entertainment reporter with KDKA/UPN. His

Hype that curb appeal

Terry Haas of HGTV's "Designed to Sell" said that homeowners sometimes forget that there is only one first impression when people visit your home.

The look of the mailbox, condition of the sidewalk, cleanliness of the front door, and even the color of the flowers are all part of that important first impression. She offers the following tip to increase your home's curb appeal:

- Check your mailbox. If it's in poor shape replace it.
- Pay attention to the landscaping. Cut your grass and trim the shrubs. Get rid of dead flowers and plants.
- Look at your front door. It should be clean and welcoming - if it's not, consider replacing it.
- Check your outdoor lighting - make sure all the bulbs are working and replace fixtures if necessary.
- Put out a new welcome mat.

Haas advises keeping your home as clean and shiny as possible. Even if you aren't planning to sell in the near

After Designed to Sell told Tallant he was their man for the job, they asked him if he knew of any real estate agents in the Washington, D.C. area. "I thought they were kidding," he commented. When he said his sister was a real estate agent, they initially thought he was joking as well, but told him to have her apply for the job.

Haas, who had recently married and decided to take a break from real estate, got her resume together and eventually landed the job after facing what Tallant described as "stiff competition" during the auditions. While Haas has always been enthralled with house hunting and loves real estate, a regular television show is something she's never done before. Tallant said he's usually been the one to learn things from his sister, but now "she's learning from me."

"It's going to be a fun show," Tallant remarked. I'm the one on the homeowners' side, almost like the good cop, while Terry tells them what needs changed to sell their house more quickly. Haas commented that the people featured on Designed to Sell volunteer to be on the show, so they're prepared for her constructive criticism. "They view their home from a computer at another location while I point out what needs done," explained Haas. She said that the show provides an avenue to teach people how to do simple projects that add value to their homes.

Haas said when selling a home, the goal is to have potential buyers be able to picture their things in the home. "Make your home inviting," she advised. Bake cookies, or just boil some cinnamon in water on the stove to make your home more appealing, a place that stands out to buyers.

Above all, both Haas and Tallant advise homeowners to de-clutter. "Get rid of as much as you can," remarked Haas. Tallant commented that the amount of clutter they see is amazing. "Clean up your house and it will sell."

future, she advises keeping up with maintenance rather than trying to do everything at once. For more tips on keeping your house up to date, visit HGTV's website at HGTV.com.

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