

# Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

APRIL 2012

## BRING ON THE SPRING

Celebrate the prospect of longer days, warmer weather, and a garden dazzling with bulbs and blossoms. The professional baseball season begins, and amateurs in many other sports are lured outside. Homeowners begin spring-cleaning. It's time to enjoy the small things in life.

Take a walk or a bike ride through your neighborhood and meet your neighbors. Consider joining a hiking group, or start your own, and explore nearby hiking trails. Pack a picnic lunch with fresh fruit and veggies from your local farmer's market and sit under a tree in a nearby park, or in your own front yard and greet passersby. Take notice of local flowers, birds, and blooming trees. Look *up* against a section of sky at dusk to observe fluttering bats collecting insects. Almost every neighborhood has bats, even the Wood Streets.

Start a garden — it's not too late. There are vegetables and fruits that can be planted throughout the four seasons, especially here in Southern California. Plant bushes that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Install a bird bath for local wildlife.



## Inside Chit Chat

**Oh, Yogi!**

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**Upcoming Garden and Craft Tours**

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**Win Money — Submit Your Quiz Answer**

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**The Pet Page (moving tips and lily plants)**

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**Real Estate Page**

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**The Senior Scene: The YANA Program**

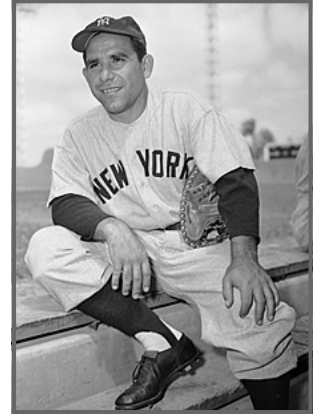
## Historical April Days

- 1513 - Juan Ponce de Leon discovered Florida for Spain
- 1564 - William Shakespeare was born
- 1614 - American Indian Pocahontas married John Rolfe
- 1743 - Thomas Jefferson is born
- 1775 - Midnight ride of Paul Revere & William Dawes
- 1789 - George Washington took office as 1st President
- 1865 - President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated
- 1866 - Butch Cassidy is born
- 1877 - First Easter egg roll at the White House
- 1894 - First motion picture public showing
- 1912 - The Titanic struck an iceberg and sank
- 1937 - The first Social Security checks were distributed
- 1960 - United States launched its first weather satellite
- 1963 - General Hospital premiered on ABC-TV
- 1970 - Apollo 13 mission began
- 1974 - Hank Aaron breaks Babe Ruth's home run record
- 1986 - World's worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl
- 1997 - Tiger Woods wins first Masters Tournament

## Oh, Yogi!

In honor of the month of April and the return of America's national pastime, here are some quotes from baseball great Yogi Berra:

- If the fans don't come out to the ball park, you can't stop them.
- You can observe a lot just by watching.
- Baseball is 90 percent mental – the other half is physical.
- I knew I was going to take the wrong train, so I left early.
- If you can't imitate him, don't copy him.
- A nickel isn't worth a dime today.
- Nobody goes there anymore; it's too crowded.
- If you come to a fork in the road, take it.
- I made a wrong mistake.
- The towels were so thick there I could hardly close my suitcase.
- Why buy good luggage? You only use it when you travel.
- You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six.
- It was impossible to get a conversation going; everybody was talking too much.
- I didn't really say everything I said.



**“Everything that slows us down and forces patience, everything that sets us back into the slow circles of nature, is a help. Gardening is an instrument of grace.” — Mary Sarton**



### **YARD SALE SIGNS (free for your use)**

Over the past 10 years,  
we've put up signs for local residents  
to help direct traffic to their yard sales.

Just a reminder that our signs are  
still available for your use, **year round.**

Give us a day or two notice...



*Need recommendations of local  
businesses that give outstanding customer  
service? Or have someone to recommend?*

*Contact us for a FREE copy of our  
Service Directory or go to*

***www.WoodStreetHomes.com***

*CONTRACTORS,  
ROOFERS,  
HANDYMEN,  
GARDENERS,  
PIANO MOVERS,  
YOGA TEACHERS,  
and more!*

# Neighborhood News

## “How-to-Garden” Tour

The “Wood Streets Green Team” is hosting the 3rd annual “How-to-Garden” Tour on **Sunday, April 22**, from **11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The tour will feature four private gardens within the Wood Streets neighborhood



Gorgeous iris and other flowers on Highland Place in the Wood Streets

that demonstrate sustainable gardening techniques along with the new Riverside City College Community Garden. Edible landscaping (fruit trees and veggies), composting, drip irrigation, creative repurposing and water-efficient landscaping will be showcased. A local expert will be on hand at each garden to answer visitors' questions. There will also be an **Eco-Fair** at RCC from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** A suggested tour donation of \$5 will help fund community garden efforts (last year's tour brought together 400 neighbors and friends from Riverside and beyond, and yielded over \$2,000 in support of the “community garden initiative”). More information can be found at [www.WoodStreetsGreenTeam.org](http://www.WoodStreetsGreenTeam.org) or by calling (951) 505-0172. We'll see you there!

## ART IN THE YARD

*Crafted with You in Mind*

**Saturday, May 5, 2012**

**10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

4182 Linwood Place, Riverside, CA, 92506

Handcrafted Gifts  
Perfect for Mother's Day

Jewelry  
Textile Art

Paper Art

Ceramics

Blown Glass

Garden Art

Stained Glass

Mixed Media Art

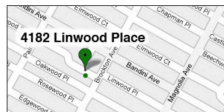
Heirloom Tomato Seedlings

Chair Masseuse

and more...



Cash or Checks preferred. Enjoy complimentary refreshments.  
Visit [yankiwi.com](http://yankiwi.com) for more info. Support local woman artists.



## Neighbors of the Wood Streets Association (NOWS)

NOWS is a phenomenal resource for neighborhood and citywide information and news. If you're unable to attend the meetings, which are held every **3rd Thursday** at **6:30 p.m.** at the RCC Alumni House at 3564 Ramona Drive, then please sign up to be on the email monthly newsletter list at [nowsnews1@gmail.com](mailto:nowsnews1@gmail.com) so you can be kept informed of guest speakers and other upcoming agenda. Please visit the new website at [www.NOWSriverside.com](http://www.NOWSriverside.com). See you at the meetings!



## Welcome New Clients!

### *Friends Referring Friends:*

*A great referral is when  
you introduce someone you care about,  
to someone you trust...*

**Andrea and Hardy Crawford**  
(referred by Lindy Colaluca,  
a past and treasured client)

**Cheryl Perez**

**Sheri Scott (a past and treasured client)**

*We love giving recognition to our new friends and  
our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough  
to refer their friends and relatives to us.*

**Absolutely NO ONE  
sells more homes in  
*The Wood Streets*  
neighborhood than  
“The Sister Team”!!**

we **LIVE** in the neighborhood,  
we **WORK** in the neighborhood,  
we **KNOW** the neighborhood,  
we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!

**[www.TheSisterTeam.com](http://www.TheSisterTeam.com)**

## April Quiz Question

**What famous actor’s real name is Issur  
Danielovitch Demsky?**

*Everyone (any age)  
responding by calling or  
e-mailing us with the correct  
answer will be entered into  
a drawing for:*

**a \$25 VISA  
gift card to use  
wherever you  
like, just like  
cash!**

*Drawing to be held on 4/28/2012*



## March Quiz Answer

**Question:** What do you call  
a female rabbit?

**Answer:** A female rabbit is called a “doe,”  
just like a female deer.  
Sometimes a female rabbit is called  
a “jill,” but that’s not very common.

**Congratulations to  
Gracie Mendez**

Your name was selected at random  
from all of the correct quiz entries  
and you'll receive  
a \$25 VISA gift card!



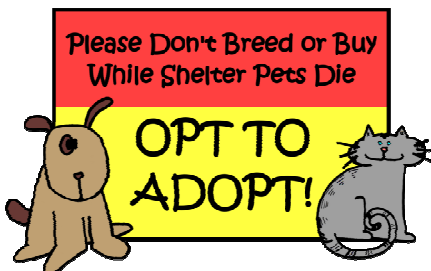
# The Pet Page

## Moving Fido: 5 Useful Tips to Remember

Most of us think of our pets as an extension of our family. So when you are preparing to make a large or small move, it is only natural that Fifi or Fido will be joining you. Moving isn't just stressful for us; it is stressful for our pets too.

When it comes to moving pets, pre-planning is very important, as animals can be very sensitive to changes in their surroundings. Below are five tips to keep in mind as a pet owner who's moving with pets:

- 1) **Make friends with the travel crate.** Whether you travel by car or by air, the crate will be your pet's "home" during the trip and it's crucial that your pet feels comfortable in the crate ahead of time.
- 2) **Pick a frequent Fido flier.** Select an airline that offers first-class accommodations for pets traveling in the cabin or under the plane. There are many pet-friendly airlines that keep pets in climate-controlled conditions throughout the flight. In fact, there is even a pet-only airline (PetAirways.com).
- 3) **Arrange a jet-setter check-up with your veterinarian.** If you're travelling across state lines or international borders, you will most likely need a health certificate issued the week before the flight. Most states require pets to be current on rabies shots. International trips may require more complex documentation, so planning ahead will be critical.
- 4) **Say no to sedatives.** Your pet is much more likely to deal better with their anxiety without medication. Actually, giving your pet the most common tranquilizer, H-acepromazine, has very serious consequences — it relaxes the respiratory muscles which makes breathing more difficult, and it could lead to over-exertion just for breathing, which will lower blood sugar, and alter the body's temperature control mechanism.
- 5) **Packing for your pet.** Take just the essentials; do not over-pack. Make sure your pet is not only **microchipped**, but has **identification tags** that list your mobile number. If your pet is traveling in the car with you, measure out everyday kibble in serving-size bags and bring two portable bowls and plenty of water. Other must-haves include extra leash, ample supply of your pet's regular medications and plenty of biodegradable bags to pick up after your pet during rest stops and walks.



Don't forget to donate your old towels, pillows and blankets to your local animal shelters. They're used for bedding, baths, etc! Thanks!

Stargazer lilies (pictured here) are bold, beautiful, fragrant and... **POISONOUS** especially for cats! These lilies, and others like the Easter lily, Day lily, etc. are popular choices for holiday bouquets and gardeners. It's unknown what makes lilies poisonous, but it is known that the toxin is soluble in water, and is deadly. Cats suffer from kidney failure after ingesting even tiny amounts of this plant and flower — even the pollen.



If you suspect your cat has ingested any part of the lily, consult your physician *immediately*! The toxic element of lilies is not known at this time, so there is no antidote. Treatment is aggressive IV fluid and protection of the gastrointestinal tract. Treatment after 18 hours or more after ingestion is poor prognosis.

**\$264,900 — 6177 Hillary Ct, 92506**

Talk about European Flare... this home is unassuming from the outside, but will knock your socks off once you walk through the front door!

Single story, 3-bdrm, 2-bath, double door entry with impressive vaulted foyer.

This home is elegantly appointed with remodeled kitchen, formal dining room, family room AND bonus room, indoor laundry, central air/heat, over **2000** sq ft! Attached 2-car garage, with parking for large toys and/or RV.

For color photos of this home and more information go to **www.WoodStreetHomes.com**.



**Gorgeous inside!**



## Behind in Your Mortgage Payments?



Don't give up the keys to your home just yet! We may be able to help. **It may not be too late.** Not everyone qualifies for a short sale, but if you do, we can work with you for **FREE** to sell your home. With our confidential help, you can sell for less than what you owe the bank.

Get a new start on your life and call us today. We have successfully closed many short sale transactions, so we have recent and proven success.

### What is a short sale?

A short sale (or pre-foreclosure) is a sales transaction in which the seller's mortgage lender agrees to accept a payoff of less than the balance due on the loan. The short sale process is still a mystery to many people, and not every listing agent is familiar, or has experience, with short sales. "The Sister Team" is in escrow on short sales right now, we have closed many escrows on short sales in the recent past, and will continue to list and sell short sales in the future due to our vast experience. **There is no substitute for experience.** In a profession filled with complex issues, you need to place your trust in experienced Realtors like us.

Banks grant short sales for two reasons: the seller has a hardship, and the seller owes more on the mortgage than the home is worth. Examples of hardships are unemployment, reduction of income, divorce, medical emergency, job transfer, bankruptcy, and death. There may be a long wait to get a response from the bank, but with a little patience, the lengthy process will end in a successful sale for sellers, and successful homeownership for buyers.

## YANA (“You Are Not Alone”) Program

In 1995, the United States Postal Service created a program to aid senior citizens who were physically challenged. The program offered assistance and referral to a variety of services.

One of the proposed services was a program that encouraged seniors and physically challenged persons to participate with their police department in the **You Are Not Alone** program. The program’s focus is making daily, or as otherwise arranged, telephone contacts to ensure the safety and welfare of its participants.

The Riverside Police Department uses volunteers working out of area store-front offices to make phone calls. If contact is made, no further action takes place. However, if the client doesn’t answer the phone after several tries, either an emergency contact person or a uniformed police officer will visit their residence.

**What does the service cost?** The YANA program is provided free of charge by the Riverside Police Department as a service to the community.

**Who can participate?** Any senior citizen, physically challenged person, or anyone else who may be able to benefit from the program may participate,

**How do I apply?** Call (951) 353-7689. The YANA volunteer will assist you in signing up for the service. All information is kept confidential.

**What else?** Throughout the year, YANA participants are invited to the police department’s area storefronts for social gatherings. The events allow the clients, volunteers and police staff to put faces and personalities with those they have been conversing with over the telephone.



## The Big Squeeze

Every year a contest was held at the county fair to determine the strongest person in the region. The contest was simple. Each contestant was given a lemon to squeeze, and the person who squeezed out the most juice would win.



One year the favored contestant was a local farmer, who milked a herd of cows each day and had enormous well-muscled hands. He produced nearly a full glass of juice from his lemon, much more than everyone else.

The judges were just about to award the farmer the prize when a small woman with gray hair and a cane stepped forward and asked for a lemon. The crowd snickered – then stopped when she squeezed out enough juice from one lemon to fill a gallon jug.

As she collected the prize, the farmer asked her how she developed such squeezing ability.

“Honey,” she said, “I used to work for the IRS.”





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Chit Chat

Place  
Stamp  
Here

## *Happy 10th Birthday, Chit Chat!*

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to over 2,100 homes every issue, is celebrating its 10th birthday!!

For those of you who have not been in the neighborhood as long as us, you'll be surprised to know that we were delivering real estate tips, sales stats, American flags, and lots of goodies (candy, note pads, calendars, etc.) for more than 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat; that means we've been the **real estate presence** in this neighborhood **for over 15 years!**

No other Realtors come close to our success here. Absolutely no one lists *and* sells more homes in the Wood Streets than "The Sister Team". This is due to our full-time and long-term commitment to the real estate industry (almost 25 years), our knowledge of the Southern California real estate market, and our personal involvement with every single transaction.

Not only do we live here and work here, but we ride our bikes and take walks throughout this amazing and wonderful neighborhood!



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