

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2008

THE GREEN ISSUE

When one conjures up thoughts of “going green”, visions of overpriced manufactured goods and expensive yuppie cars usually come to mind. While there are some green projects that might not be a sound financial investment for some individuals, there are an abundance of products and services that actually come cheaper than the conventional alternative.

There are many simple ways in which you can begin “going green” and walk away with a feeling of doing your part for the environment and your children’s future. So what are you waiting for? Start swapping those light bulbs for the spiral ones, brush your teeth without water running, ride a bicycle instead of driving your car, set your thermostat lower in winter and higher in summer, and start recycling while you feel your finances sigh with relief.



This newsletter is completely green. Turn the pages for ideas on how to protect and extend your life, your environment, and your future. At least one “green” article will be published in every future Chit Chat newsletter.

A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and without a doubt, this is a step that ALL of us can take.

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**The Sister Team is proud
to unveil our NEW website:**

www.TheSisterTeam.com

We’re always thinking “how can we help?” so we’ve created an interactive website that allows you to comment, ask questions, learn about and become more involved with your community, obtain current real estate information, access the MLS for free, and learn about pet care and adoption services.

This website is not just for us — this is for YOU!! Please contact us with any topics that you would like to share or discuss.

We are still working on adding links for Riverside items, as well as creating a Lost and Found section. The site will constantly be updated and we will blog almost daily about interesting, fun, noteworthy and community topics. Welcome, and enjoy...

Independence Day — 2008

For the eleventh consecutive year, we (and some of our dearest friends — see photo) set out at 6:30 a.m. and personally hand-delivered 1700 American flags to the “Wood Streets” neighborhood on the morning of July 4th, our wonderful country’s Independence Day! We hope you enjoyed the festive flags and look forward to our patriotic gesture again next year.

Your neighbors,

Tara and April Glatzel

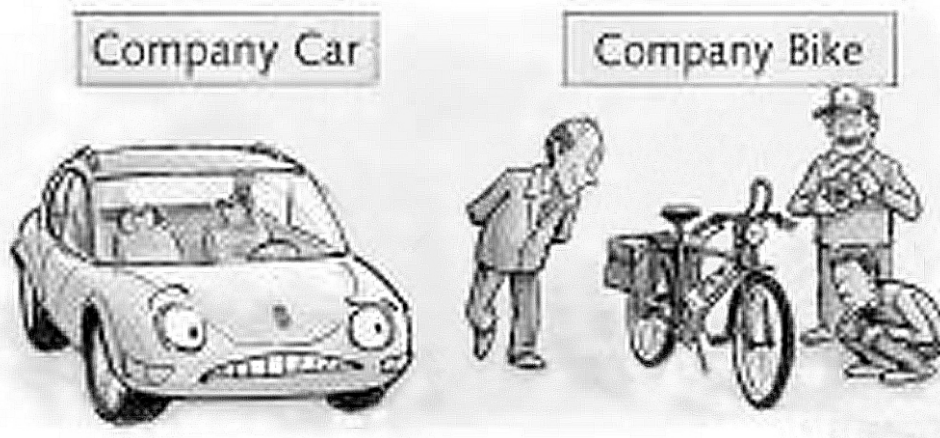
Left to right: Sandy, Gracie, Gregg, Heidi, Dorette, Teri, Ruth, Debbie, Ryan, April, Bethany, Brooklynn, Tara and Eddie




“You must be the change that you see in the world.” — Ghandi

*“We do not inherit the land from our ancestors,
we borrow it from our children.” — Native American proverb*

*“He who knows what sweets and virtues are in the ground, the waters, the plants, the heavens,
and how to come at these enchantments, is the rich and royal man.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson*



Want to “Go Green” but don’t know where to start? Here are six things you can do right now!

1. **Think before you buy** — Write the following questions on a small card and tuck it away in your wallet. Every time you make a non-essential purchase, you will be confronted with these questions, all of which speak to the underlying wish: I want my money to support the environment; not destroy it. Is this purchase something I really *need*? Can I borrow one instead of buying one? Can I buy a used one? Would someone be willing to split the cost and share this with me? Can I buy one that was made with environmentally responsible materials? Can I compost or recycle it when I’m done with it? What is the impact on the environment of the full life cycle of it? Does the manufacture and disposal of it damage the environment?
2. **Get a travel coffee mug and make money** — Starbucks and other coffee shops will offer 10 cents back per purchase when you don’t use one of their cups. You could conceivably save up to \$25 in one year if you used a portable thermos. Invest that money in a nice bond or CD, and parlay it into a small fortune.
3. **Stop drinking bottled water** — Most bottled water is *not regulated*, while tap water is. Imagine a water bottle filled a quarter of the way up with oil. That’s about how much oil was needed to produce the bottle. Single use plastic bottles can leach BPA (Biphenol a) which is a hormone disruptor in humans. While many bottles are recycled, over 3 *million bottles* end up in landfills each day in California alone, and many more end up at sea and in rivers. 
4. **Dig into worm composting** — You can create your own composter or purchase one from The Worm Factory (www.cascadewormbin.com), which is a great way to minimize waste and reduce society’s overall impact on the earth. Composting your kitchen scraps and junk mail can be done conveniently under your sink and remain odor-free at the same time.
5. **Stop using plastic bags** — Face it, there’s no need for these things and they are destroying the planet. Train yourself to take re-usable bags with you to the grocery store. Leave some bags near the front door or have some in your car. With a 5 cent back per bag refund from most grocery stores, they’ll actually pay for themselves and then keep making you money.
6. **Junk your junk mail** — Generally speaking, the greatest waste to come out of any house is in the form of paper and the largest contributor to that number is junk mail. For starters, check out Greendimes.com; even though it costs \$20 a year, for that price they automatically remove you from several lists, plant 10 trees, and continually monitor your account. Try OptOutPrescreen.com, which processes requests from consumers to opt-in or opt-out of offers for credit or insurance. Before throwing stuff in the recycling bin, call the 800 number and ask to be placed on their “do not mail” list. Bottom line is, don’t give up. Some junk will stop right away, and some will take up to a few months, but eventually you’ll see a big difference.

365 Days of Trash

Dave Chameides has pledged to keep and recycle all of his garbage for an entire year. The aim is to highlight how much Americans waste, and to show how we can cut down on garbage if we are a bit smart about it. As of September 2008, he’s been at it for eight months, keeping his garbage in his basement which is 8 feet by 15 feet. All of the food scraps are consumed by worms. Chameides says he’s doing this to see what kind of an impact he has overall in regards to the waste one individual creates. “Sustainable Dave” isn’t necessarily relishing the idea of surrounding himself with his own trash, just learning from what he creates. Ultimately, it goes back to the core idea of personal responsibility, something many of us might want to think about. “Consume less, conserve more” is Dave’s motto. Follow his progress at www.365daysoftrash.blogspot.com.

Welcome New Clients!

Here are some past clients, and new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" recently, whom we'd like to welcome, say thank you, and wish all the best!

Jim and Amy McNeil

Randolph Pratt and Escarlet Mejia
(Referred by Jeanette Jordan)

Shelley Brayton

Jessica James and Mike Elliott
(Referred by Debbie James)

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.

Aug/Sept Quiz Question

What is the hardest naturally occurring substance on earth?

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

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 10/19/08



June/July Quiz Answer

Question: What is the only bone in the human body that doesn't touch another bone?

Answer: The hyoid bone (lingual bone) is located in the neck, shaped like a horseshoe, and is the only bone in the human skeleton not articulated to any other bone.

It is supported by the muscles in the neck and in turn supports the root of the tongue.

Congratulations to Lucy Winston

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!

**It's all part of our
Free, No-obligation
Home Finder Service.**

Call April or Tara any time:
(951) 205-4429 or (951) 205-4428

www.thesisterteam.com

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Pet Page

Ah, the pitter patter of four-legged feet as they whip through your living room at over-clocked speeds or uproot your prized gladiolas with manic fervor. But Snookiepuss and Mrs. Fluffypants are practically family, right? So why should they settle for anything less than top drawer when their health and wellbeing are at stake? Throw the planet a bone while you're at it; read on for some goods on how to reduce your pets' carbon paw prints — without making your wallet roll over and play dead.



Top Green Pet Tips

1. **Adopt from a shelter** — Pet breeders have only one goal in mind — to raise large quantities of purebred animals for profit. They've been pilloried for misdeeds such as overbreeding and lousy living conditions. Why buy when you can adopt one of the 70,000 puppies and kittens born every day in the United States? Love knows no pedigree.
2. **Spay or neuter your pet** — Did we mention 70,000 puppies and kittens are born every day in the United States? We don't need any more homeless animals than we already have. As a bonus, spaying and neutering helps dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by eliminating the possibility of uterine, ovarian and testicular cancer.
3. **Clean up their waste** — Scoop up your doggie doo in biodegradable poop bags so your buddy's #2 isn't immortalized in a plastic bag while deep-sixed in a landfill somewhere for hundreds of years. Cat owners should avoid clumping clay litter. Not only is clay strip-mined (bad for the planet), but the clay sediment is also permeated with carcinogenic silica dust that can coat little kitty lungs (bad for the cat). Purchase eco-friendly cat litters.
4. **Compost their waste** — You can compost, just don't use it with your vegetable garden. If you have room, bury an old garbage bin to use as a pet-waste composter or check out the Doggie Dooley (www.doggiedooley.com) which works like a miniature septic tank, utilizing enzyme and bacteria action to automatically reduce dog waste to an odorless ground absorbing liquid.
5. **Use natural pet-care and cleaning products** — You don't use toxic-chemical-laced shampoo, so lather up your cats/dogs with natural pet-care products as well. And if your cat hoarks up a hairball, or Fifi doesn't make it to the bathroom, clean up the mess with cleaning products that are as gentle on the planet as they are on your critter's delicate senses.
6. **Tag your pet** — It might be a stretch to call inserting an electronic ID microchip into your pet an eco-friendly move, but losing a pet causes paper waste from printing 'missing' posters and the fuel cost of driving around the neighborhood trying to find your pet. The cost is about \$15 per microchip, a small fee in the scope of things.
7. **Pets, not fads** — Sure, it's cute to see a 5-yr-old child cradle a tiny chick or bunny during Easter, but nature dictates that these creatures grow into full-grown rabbits and chickens. Unless everyone involved understands that a pet is a long-term commitment that involves time and money, you're better off giving the child a stuffed animal.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

"The Sister Team" is willing to donate money to help those who would like to adopt a needy (and doomed) pet from any animal shelter!

And **remember**....spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help cats and dogs!

We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause!

Together, forever and always
for the animals!

--Tara and April

LOST AND FOUND

If you've lost, or found, any type of creature (cat, dog, bird, tortoise), please contact "The Sister Team" so that we may put its photo and/or description in this newsletter and on our new website, so a happy reunion can be arranged with the proper owner!!

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed AND Sold by “The Sister Team”

SOLD

3581	Elmwood Drive	\$432,500	3 bed, 1.75 bath	2052 sq ft	2-car garage
6297	Cross River	\$215,700	4 bed, 2.5 bath	1466 sq ft	2-car garage
4065	Larchwood	\$300,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1235 sq ft	2-car carport
5342	Magnolia	\$405,000	5 bed, 2.75 bath	2168 sq ft	2-car garage
4209	Rosewood (<i>sold in 1 week!</i>)	\$300,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1000 sq ft	1-car garage
4744	Rubidoux	\$250,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1032 sq ft	2-car garage

IN ESCROW

260	Fox Mills	Sold prices posted in next “Activity Report”	4 bed, 2.5 bath	1235 sq ft	2-car garage
2856	Iron Hills		3 bed, 1 bath	1477 sq ft	2-car garage
4568	Brentwood		2 bed, 1 bath	959 sq ft	2-car garage

AVAILABLE

4050	Adams (Historical Mansion)	\$539,000	3 bed, 3 bath	2500 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa
3573	Beechwood	\$449,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	2350 sq ft	2-car garage
5068	Carlingford	\$309,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1550 sq ft	2-car garage
4158	Highland	\$299,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1250 sq ft	2-car garage
4333	Maplewood	\$324,900	2 bed, 2 bath	1780 sq ft	2-car garage

ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by “The Sister Team.”

If you would like information on other properties (listed or sold) in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.

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



\$309,900 5068 Carlingford 3 bd/1.75 bth 1550 sq ft, turn key with central air/heat, new paint, new windows, new roof! Almost everything is new! What a deal!!! The back yard has two covered patios, with access to the 2-car garage!



\$324,900 4333 Maplewood 2 bd/2 bth 1780 sq ft, central air/heat, bright kitchen with nook, living room and family room, gorgeous private backyard sprinkled with pink roses. This home sits on one of the prettiest tree-lined streets ever!



\$449,900 3573 Beechwood 3 bd/1.75 bth 2350 sq ft, many original features including hardwood floors, door knobs and built-ins, plus permitted family room addition. Master bedroom suite, central air/heat, fireplace, and 2-car garage!

Do You Recycle?

In spite of all the great reasons to do so, almost one-quarter of us aren't recycling at home, according to a Harris Poll.

While 77% of people surveyed said they recycle something in their homes, 23% do not. And though "going green" is thought to be more popular with younger folks, the poll found that 30% of those between the ages of 18 to 30 recycle nothing at all, while only 19% of those 62 and older fail to recycle.

Geography seems to have some influence: Those who live on the East (88%) or West (86%) coasts are more likely to recycle than those who live in the south (32%) or Midwest (30%).



Green Your Home for Under \$100

The economy is a bit rough right now. Everyone is scrambling to save money and "going green" is a good way to do that; however, many people can't scrape the capital together to install triple pane windows, a complex rainwater storage system or radiant floor heating. How can people living in these economic times go green without going broke? There is actually plenty that can be done:

- ◆ Instead of installing windows with multiple panes, blackout curtains can be purchased for under fifty dollars and will reduce heat loss by 25 percent.
- ◆ You can find rain barrels for under fifty dollars, but you have to shop around. For the savvy bargain hunter, a regular barrel, assuming it didn't store chemicals at one point, can easily be converted into a rain barrel for even less.
- ◆ Removing your carpet can increase your in-home air quality, if you have hardwood floors underneath. This will cut down on your allergies. And don't forget to recycle the carpet after you remove it.
- ◆ Put caulk around your outlets, switches and windows, and put an insulating foam gasket behind the outlets and switches too. These gaskets cost less than a dollar.

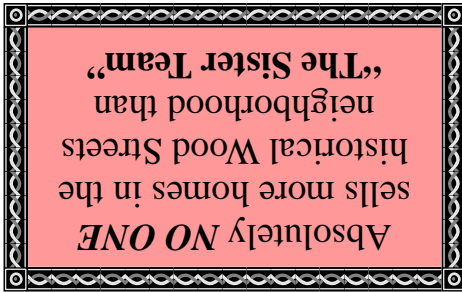
Old Shirts Make Great Accessories

Turning old shirt fabric into a head band or scarf is ridiculously easy. Just cut strips of fabric off and tie these strips along your head or neck and you'll have a one-of-a-kind accessory.



You can turn an old shirt into a purse without even using a sewing machine. All you have to do is cut the shirt open then cut a long slice of fabric off. This will be your strap. Bring the rest of the fabric together in a bundle, and at the top of the bundle, cut two holes on each side — string your strap through these holes and tie a knot at the top and there you go!

With some earring hooks and necklace fasteners, your old fabric can easily be converted into jewelry by gluing it around stones to make unique beads or just let them dangle. Either way, it's new spice to any outfit.



Tara and April Glatzel
"The Sister Team"
Your Real Estate Consultants For Life!
390 N. McKinley St., Ste. 106
Corona, CA 92879
E-mail: aprilglatzel@remax.net
Website: www.thesisterteam.com
Tara: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429

Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
Here

Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....*and deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

If you want any friends, coworkers, relatives or business acquaintances to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please contact us and we'll put them on the mailing list immediately.

It is our desire to build a business based on strong and lasting relationships.

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