

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

AUGUST 2012

Independence Day—2012

For the 15th consecutive year, we (and some of our dearest friends — see photo) set out at 6:30 a.m. and personally hand-delivered approximately 2,000 American flags to the “Wood Streets” neighborhood on the morning of July 4th, our country’s Independence Day! As we do every year, after jubilantly walking from yard to yard, we treated everyone to a yummy breakfast at a local restaurant.

We hope you enjoyed the festive flags and look forward to our annual patriotic gesture again next year!

Your neighbors,

Tara and April



From left to right: Eddie, Gregg, Gracie, Debbie, April, Steve, Ryan, Tara, Teri, Brooklynn, Mark, Heidi, Elsie, Sarah, Bethany, Cyndy, Gina, Leah

Inside Chit Chat

Homes for Sale (Wood Streets & Downtown)

Win Money — Submit Your Quiz Answer

The Pet Page (Sophie's Happy Ending)

Never Buy Celery Again

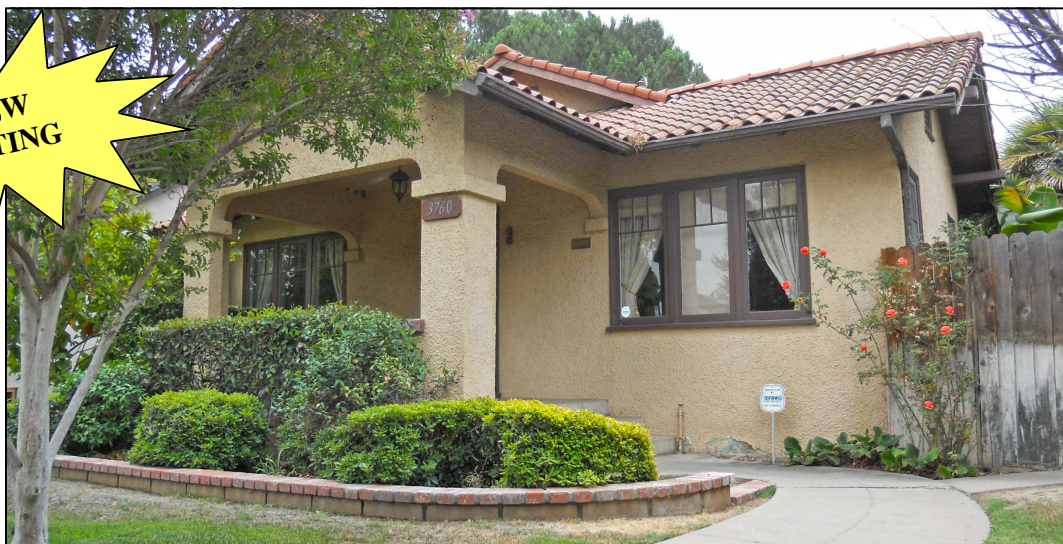
Grammatical Differences

Neighborhood News and More

Historical August Days

- 1670 - The 1st Indian Church founded in Massachusetts
- 1775 - First article proposing women's rights published
- 1782 - George Washington created the “Purple Heart”
- 1832 - Indian leader Black Hawk surrendered
- 1892 - Thomas Edison patented motion picture camera
- 1906 - The record player was patented
- 1916 - The National Park Service was established
- 1920 - First licensed radio broadcast occurred
- 1932 - Amelia Earhart, 1st woman to fly across the U.S.
- 1944 - Anne Frank's last diary entry
- 1954 - First publication of “Sports Illustrated”
- 1962 - Maiden voyage of first nuclear-powered ship
- 1977 - Singer Elvis Presley died in Memphis
- 1982 - The United States Marines landed in Beirut
- 1997 - Lady Diana died in a car crash in Paris, France

NEW
LISTING



\$279,900 — 3760 Rosewood Place

“Wood Streets” Mediterranean influenced cottage built in 1926 with 1400 sq ft, 3 bedrooms/1 bathroom, tile roof, located on the east side of Magnolia Avenue, remodeled kitchen and bathroom, formal dining room, central air/heat, original hardwood floors, built-ins flanking fireplace, indoor laundry, pool-sized yard, 2-car garage with potential RV parking. Standard sale! Go to www.WoodStreetHomes.com for more photos.

*Turn to page 7 for the
encouraging
RE/MAX Housing Recovery Report*

IN ESCROW



\$329,900 — 4142 Linwood Place

EXQUISITE 1945 “Wood Streets” home offers approx **1900 sq ft**, 3 large bedrooms (including a gigantic master bedroom suite), 2 remodeled bathrooms, remodeled kitchen, central air/heat, original hardwood floors, living room, family room, formal dining room, indoor laundry, large pool-sized gorgeous landscaped backyard, remote-controlled-gated 2-car garage. Standard sale! Go to www.WoodStreetHomes.com for more photos.

**NEW
LISTING**

**City of Riverside
Structure of Merit
#746**



\$210,000 — 3558 Castle Reagh Place

Exceptionally desirable location in the “Wood Streets” (east of Magnolia) offers up a 1926 Spanish Mediterranean 3 bedroom/1 bathroom with over 1300 sq ft, tile roof, **central air/heat**, hardwood floors, fireplace, newer exterior paint, pool-sized backyard and 2-car detached garage. Sold “as is” (cash only) due to needed lathe/plaster repairs and roof issues. Standard sale — terrific investment! Call Tara at **951-205-4428** for more information.

**City of Riverside
Structure of Merit
#210**



\$595,000 — 4410 Houghton Avenue

Museum-quality 1927 Spanish Mediterranean Revival, designed by Robert H. Spurgeon, is an architectural masterpiece that emphasizes some of the finest craftsmanship you’ll ever see! This model of perfection is **3,015** sq ft, 3 enormous bedrooms/2 bathrooms (one of which was just remodeled at a cost of \$40,000 by Pasadena artisans), exquisite original hardwood floors, large kitchen, step-down living room w/fireplace, family room w/fireplace, formal dining room with unique domed ceiling, central air/heat, completely re-landscaped front/rear yards with gas fire pit. Two-car detached garage. Standard sale! Go to **www.TheSisterTeam.com** for *not-to-be-missed* photos!!

Friends Referring Friends!

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

Laurence Ducceschi

Moina Kahn

Darla Robinson

Michelle Ouellette (Referred by Jill Willis, 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

August Quiz Question

**What was the 19th Amendment to the
U.S. Constitution?**

*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 8/30/2012*



June Quiz Answer

Question: What do you call
a group of otters?

Answer: A romp, family, or raft.

**Congratulations to
Tristan Jackson**

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

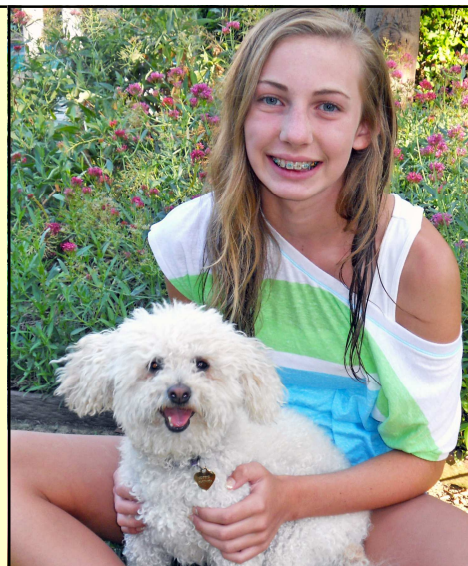
Sophie's Happy Ending

Knowing your neighbors once again pays off! On the evening of July 4, 2012, the Riverside fireworks scared Sophie from the safety of her yard. Observant neighbors, Ron and Sandy Baumgartner, whistled to the scared dog and were able to catch her, and immediately called the phone number on Sophie's collar but no one was home to claim her so she was kept in a secure kennel.

Meanwhile, Ron and Sandy remembered reading in this Chit Chat newsletter over the years that if a pet is lost or found, to contact "The Sister Team" as an additional means to help pair up lost pets with their owners.

Ron and Sandy called to tell us they found a dog named "Sophie." Twelve-year-old Elsie just happened to be visiting us when we asked if her dog Sophie was missing. She ran across the street to her home and realized Sophie WAS missing so we all jumped in the car to retrieve her from our good samaritans' house, which was almost a mile away.

Elsie was tearfully reunited with her dog that evening, and all because Ron and Sandy called "The Sister Team." A happy ending, indeed!



Sophie and Elsie

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



Five-year-old Brooklynn decided to ask her birthday guests to bring donations for shelter pets to her party instead of gifts! While delivering the bags and boxes of food, and toys and treats to the Mary S. Roberts Pet Adoption Center (PAC) in Riverside, PAC happened to be accepting a litter of three puppies so they named one in honor of Brooklynn (the pup on her lap in photo)! Brooklynn's older sister, Gracie (with Brooklynn in photo above), also plans to ask for pet shelter donations instead of gifts for her 13th birthday party in November! As soon as Gracie becomes of age, she wants to volunteer at a pet shelter!

Never Buy Celery Again

You can re-grow organic celery from the base of the bunch you bought from the store a couple of weeks ago. It's amazing how resourceful we can be when we try.

Simply chop the celery stalk from the base of the celery bunch. Instead of tossing the base (see photo to right), which most people do, rinse it off and place in a small saucer or bowl of warm water on or near a sunny windowsill with base side down and cut stalks facing upright.

Let the celery base hang out in the saucer of water for about one week, changing the water every couple of days. Over the course of the week, the surrounding stalks will begin to dry out significantly, but the tiny little yellow leaves from the center of the base will begin thickening and growing up and out from the center, turning a dark green. The growth will be slow, but steady and evident.



After 5-7 days, transfer the celery base to a recycled planter like the oatmeal tin in photo, or directly outside depending on time of year, and cover it completely (except for the new leaf tips) with a mixture of dirt and potting soil and continue to water generously. Not only will you have celery leaves regenerating themselves from the base, but you will see stalks making their way up and out of the soil.

Sure, this process isn't as convenient as riding your bike to the local farmer's market for a quick celery fix, but it's a rewarding experiment and perfect for teaching children patience and respect for the rewards of gardening. When planting celery from seed, the growing process can take 5 or more months to reach desired stalk size. There are many other foods you can grow from leftovers — ginger root, garlic, sweet potatoes, green onions, lettuce, etc. Read the book entitled, "Don't Throw It, Grow It!" which details 68 windowsill plants you can grow from kitchen scraps. Happy recycling.... and bon appetite!

Grammatical Difference Between "Me" and "I"

Perhaps you wince at the decline of correct grammar these days, or perhaps it doesn't matter at all. However, good grammar is credibility, whether in a newsletter or especially on the internet (blog posts, Facebook, emails, company websites, etc.) And, for better or worse, people will judge you if you can't tell the difference between I and Me, or the difference between Their, There, and They're. Here are some helpful tips:

If you were to say, "Barbara and I went to the party" it would be correct. "Barbara and me went to the party" would be incorrect. Think of it this way: eliminate "Barbara" so it would be "I went to the party" not "me went to the party." Basically, eliminate the other person(s) to see if the sentence makes sense.

They're = they are (They're going to the gym.)

Their = shows possession (The gym is owned by their family.)

There = specifies a location (The gym is over there, near the freeway.)

Neighborhood News & More

Wood Streets Neighbor Network is a group of volunteers helping neighbors in the Wood Streets who don't have family or friends nearby to walk dogs, run errands, drive to doctor's appointments, do minor household repairs, move heavy items and other tasks. To volunteer or ask for help, send an email to wsn@att.net. Some of the volunteers have undergone background checks



and have been fingerprinted, so you can be assured this is a sincere group of volunteers who are only looking to be of service to those in need — for FREE!

MOTHER: Why did you swallow the money I gave you?



JUNIOR: You said it was my lunch money.

Beware of Utility Bill Scam!

Residents are being contacted by scammers claiming to be with the City of Riverside, telling victims their account is past due and that their service will be stopped unless they pay immediately with their credit card or bank information. If you are contacted with a similar situation, hang up then call the City at 951-826-5835 to determine if your account is truly overdue.

Neighbors of the Wood Streets Association (NOWS) is a terrific resource for neighborhood and city wide information and news. If you're unable to attend the meetings which are held every **3rd Thurs 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 NowNews1@gmail.com so you can be kept informed of guest speakers and other upcoming agenda. Please visit the new website at www.NOWSrivside.com.





NATIONAL HOUSING REPORT



**Housing Recovery Gains Momentum
Sales and Prices Rise Higher**

July 2012

The July 2012 Re/Max National Housing Report shows that the housing recovery is real. On a year-to-year basis, home sales have now risen for twelve straight months, and prices have inched higher for the past five months. It appears that the recovery is broad based, occurring in all geographic regions. Increased consumer confidence, historically low mortgage rates, and attractive pricing are some of the factors that are drawing buyers and sellers back into the real estate market.

“Although the housing market has a long way to go to make a full recovery, all signs now show that it’s on the right path and has improved every month so far this year,” said Margaret Kelly, CEO of RE/MAX, LLC. “This selling season is the best in years, and those who thought that the positive trends would quickly correct have been proven wrong, because many consumers again feel comfortable buying or selling a home.”



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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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