Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

DECEMBER 2011

YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT IS ENCLOSED

For 14 years, we've been delivering annual calendars to clients, friends, and our "Wood Streets" neighbors ... a tradition we look forward to every winter holiday.

This year our magnetic calendars include a special adhesive strip on the back of the magnet which enables them to go almost anywhere (stainless steel appliances, wood, plastic, glass, etc.) and they are *repositionable*!

In addition to our magnetic calendars, we also have large wall calendars, so please let us know if you need an extra one for your office, for a friend, or for your vacation home. And if you don't have a vacation home, now is the time to purchase one (a shameless real estate plug)!

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Senior Scene: Free tax preparation service



'Twas The Day After Christmas

Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house; every creature was hurting — even the mouse. The toys were all broken, their batteries dead; Santa passed out, with some ice on his head. Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor; while upstairs the family continued to snore. When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter: I sprang from the kitchen to see what was the matter. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a little white truck with an oversized mirror. The driver was smiling, so lively and grand; the patch on his jacket said "U.S. Post Man". With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox, then quickly he stuffed them in our mailbox. Bill after bill, after bill, they still came; whistling and shouting he called them by name: Now Dillard's, now Macy's, now Penny's and Sears, here's Levitz and Target and K-Mart — all here! To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall; now chargeaway—chargeaway—chargeaway all! He whooped and he whistled as he finished his work, he filled up the box, and then turned with a jerk. He sprang to his truck and he drove down the road, driving much faster with just half a load. Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday cheer, "ENJOY WHAT YOU BOUGHT ... YOU'LL BE PAYING ALL YEAR!"

Happy Holidays from "The Sister Team"

Wishing each and every one of you a happy holiday season and the best wishes ever for the new year!

Warmest regards,



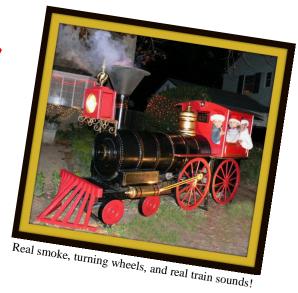




3rd Annual

"Cookies with Santa

Come visit with Santa! He will be making a special appearance at 3943 Chapman Place (the house with the train) Saturday, December 10th 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.



Santa's helpers will be serving hot chocolate and cookies for children and adults. Don't forget your camera!



Merry Christmas!

WHEN DID THE CHAPMAN PLACE CHRISTMAS DECORATION TRADITION BEGIN?

According to a 1966 article in The Press-Enterprise newspaper, the tradition of decorating the street was proposed in 1950 by Chapman Place resident Charles M. Wilson. In 1950, the west end of the street was still an orange grove, yet the homeowners gathered in Charlie's garage to make 8-ft tall Christmas trees out of aluminum foil. The 1966 newspaper photo showcased life-sized lit candlesticks that lined the street, which the current residents reproduced and put in place this year for the whole neighborhood to enjoy! Take a stroll down Chapman tonight...



Welcome New Clients!

Friends Referring Friends:

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

Brandal and Cheryl Burke

Ty and Linda Lawyer (referred by Pat Stewart)

Jeremy and Erin Hansen (past and treasured clients)

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

December Quiz Question

In which state is there a town actually named Skidoo?

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 12/28/2011



November Quiz Answer

Question: 'Frumenty' is a traditional Christmas food. What is it?

Answer: Frumenty was part of the traditional Celtic Christmas meal for several centuries. It's made primarily from boiled, cracked wheat, as a porridge type dish, hence its name which derives from the Latin word *frumentum* for "grain".

Congratulations to John Zavesky

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

A Cat's 12 Days of Christmas

On the 12th day of Christmas my human gave to me:
Twelve bags of catnip,
Eleven tarter Pound treats,
Ten ornaments hanging,
Nine wads of tissue,
Eight peacock feathers,
Seven stolen Q-tips,
Six feathered balls,
FIVE MILK JUG RINGS!
Four munchy house plants,
Three running faucets,
Two fuzzy mousies,
And a hamster in a plastic ball!



A Puppy's 12 Days of Christmas

On the 11th day of Christmas my puppy gave to me: Eleven unwrapped presents, Ten Christmas cards I shoulda mailed, My wreath in nine pieces, Eight tiny reindeer fragments, Seven scraps of wrapping paper, Six yards of soggy ribbon, FIVE CHEWED-UP STOCKINGS! Four broken window candles, Three punctured ornaments, Two leaking bubble lights, And the angel topper from the Christmas tree. On the 12th day of Christmas my puppy gave to me.... A dozen puppy kisses and I forgot about the other eleven days!



If you receive new sheets, blankets and/or towels as gifts this holiday season, please do not throw away your old ones.

Consider donating them to any animal shelter, or call us at 951-205-4429 and we'll pick them up and deliver them to an animal shelter for you!













No time of the year is more emotional than the holiday season, whether you're bursting with the joy of baking and caroling, or overwhelmed with the stress of shopping and wrapping.

But even with all those other factors weighing on your mind, it's possible to put a green spin on your holidays; simple tips and easy substitutions mean you can come through this season of indulgence without leaving a massive carbon footprint.

Start with your gift list, where going green can mean anything from simply buying fewer gifts (the too-cluttered shelves at your giftee's house will thank you, we promise) to finding Fair Trade alternatives to holiday classics. Look for recycled paper goods, like cards and wrapping, or get creative and make your own versions of both.

Green your holiday dinner with seasonal, local ingredients, and stock your bar with organic bubbly. Then look for greens for your home by choosing fresh wreaths and pesticide-free trees trimmed with energy-slashing LED lights. Put the money you saved on your electric bill toward a donation to environmental charities and let your greenbacks support green projects.

But most importantly, keep in mind that the holidays are not about the gifts, the errands, the trimmings; they're about celebrating with your family and friends and appreciating the blessings in your life. We happen to think Mother Earth is one of those blessings, so put these tips to work to help keep it that way.

If you have any great 'green' ideas for the holidays, please share them with us and we'll post in next year's holiday issue of Chit Chat.

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HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH

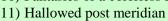


CELEBRATE
CHRISTMAS
CRANBERRIES
DECEMBER
DECORATIONS
FIR
HANUKKAH
HOLY

KAFTAN KWANZAA LIGHTS MENORAH MIRACLE MISTLETOE TINSEL YULETIDE

Name That Christmas Carol

- 1) Miniscule hamlet in the far east
- 2) Decorate the passage with branches of evergreen sprigs
- 3) Aloft on the acme of the abode
- 4) Slumber in ethereal quiet
- 5) Befell during the transparent bewitching hour
- 6) Homo sapien of crystallized vapor
- 7) Perambulating through a December solstice fantasy
- 8) Tin tintinnabulums
- 9) Yonder in the haystack
- 10) Fantasies of a colorless December 25th



12) Listen, aerial spirits harmonizing



Answers:

12) Hark the Herald Angels Sing

11) O Holy Night

10) Dreaming of a White Christmas

9) Away in a Manger

8) Silver Bells

7) Walking in a Winter Wonderland

6) Frosty the Snowman

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

3) Up on the rooftop (Silent Night) Sleep in heavenly peace (Silent Night)

2) Deck the halls with boughs of holly

O' Little Town of Bethlehem

\$199,000 3649 Oakwood Place

"Wood Streets" highly desirable Spanish-Mediterranean home with 2 bdrms, 1 bath, and approx 1300 sq ft. Built in 1939, you'll appreciate the original hardwood floors, fireplace, large bedrooms, immense closet space, eat-in kitchen plus formal dining room, central air/heat, indoor laundry, pool-sized backyard, spacious patio for entertaining, and a 2-car pass-thru detached garage plus covered carport!

For color photos, go to

www.WoodStreetHomes.com





\$274,900 6177 Hillary Court

At the base of Pachappa Hill, this lovely home will leave you breathless as soon as you walk through the double front doors!

Over 2,000 sq ft, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, vaulted ceilings, remodeled kitchen, family room with fireplace, huge living room, formal dining room, wet bar, enclosed patio room, central air conditioning and heat 2-car garage and RV parking!

For color photos, go to www.TheSisterTeam.com

Behind In Your Mortgage Payments?

It might not be too late — you may qualify for a short sale, which costs you nothing. Call us today for a free, no-obligation consultation!



FREE Tax Preparation Service

Your local AARP chapter office is offering FREE tax preparation assistance. The program is provided mainly for **senior citizens** and also **some low-income taxpayers**. You do not need to be a member of AARP to benefit from this service.

Beginning in January 2012, you can call or visit for information and to schedule an appointment. The office is located at 3713 Tibbetts (just off Brockton, near Arlington) and is open from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Mondays and Thursdays, and the phone is (951) 682-1416.





Tara: (951) 205-4428

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Chit Chat

Happy 9th 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 9th birthday this year!!

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 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat!

No other Realtors come close to our success in this neighborhood! 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, take walks, and have had our fingers on the pulse of this amazing and wonderful neighborhood for the past 14+ years!

