Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JULY / AUGUST 2011

Independence Day -- 2011

For the <u>14th</u> consecutive year, we (and some of our dearest friends — see photo) set out at 6:00 a.m., a bit earlier this year since Riverside was experiencing a bit of a heat wave, and personally hand-delivered almost 2,000 American flags to our wonderful "Wood Streets" neighborhood on the morning of July 4th! We hope you enjoyed the festive flags and look forward to our patriotic gesture again next year.

— Tara & April



Left to right: Heidi, Leilani, Isabella, April, Peter, Alina, Brooklynn, Debbie, Gregg, Tara, Teri, Bethany, Elsie, Gracie, Ryan, Sue, Gina, Eddie, Cyndy, Greg

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Historical August Days

- 1620 Mayflower sets sail from Southampton
- 1748 United Lutheran Church of US organized
- 1819 The first parachute jump in the United States
- 1866 President Johnson declares Civil War over
- 1903 First coast-to-coast automobile trip (SF to NY)
- 1909 The first Lincoln head pennies minted
- 1929 Airship Zeppelin ends a round-the-world flight
- 1945 Wartime rationing of gasoline and fuel oil ends
- 1958 First class postage increased to \$.04 (was \$.03 for 26 years)
- 1964 Beatles' "Hard Day's Night" single goes to #1
- 1967 US's Lunar Orbiter 5 enters lunar orbit
- 1969 Woodstock Music and Art Fair opens in NY
- 1972 Last American combat troops leave Vietnam
- 1981 MTV premiers
- 1990 Magellan spacecraft lands on Venus
- 2005 Hurricane Katrina strikes Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi coastal areas

Neighborhood News

Neighbors of the Wood Streets Association (NOWS)

YOUR community association, NOWS, is celebrating **National Night Out** on Tuesday, **August 2nd** from **6 to 9 pm** at 5264 Magnolia Avenue. National Night Out (NNO) is America's *Night Out* against crime! For 28 years, NNOs have been occurring all over America. Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, NNO has proven to be an effective and inexpensive way to promote neighborhood spirit. NNO is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. We are asking that everyone turn on their porch lights in solidarity.

In addition to NNO, we will be celebrating the 1st birthday of NOWS. In the past year, NOWS has been recognized not only by the City of Riverside, but also nationally by NNO. In celebration, there will be

FREE hot dogs, root beer floats, and birthday cake (while supplies last). Bring proof of Wood Streets residency, along with a folding chair and/or blanket and join in the fun.

There will be no NOWS meeting in August; meetings will resume on September 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the RCC Alumni House at 3564 Ramona Drive. *Volunteers are needed to help distribute meeting flyers. Good exercise for a good cause!*



Home Energy Efficiency Survey

Courtesy of Southern California Gas Company, you can become more energy efficient. Save money and precious



resources by taking a FREE Home Energy Efficiency Survey. When you take the survey, you'll get customized gas, electric and water saving tips on the best ways to use appliances in your home. Take the

energy survey that is most convenient for you:

- Mail-in survey: Just call 1-800-278-8585 to request a printed survey to complete at your convenience.
- Online survey: Take a 15-minute online survey (www.socalgas.com) to get energy saving tips that will help reduce your bills and lighten your impact on the environment.

Once you complete the survey, you'll receive a customized report that will:

- Provide a personalized assessment of your natural gas, electricity and water usage
- Help you identify where you're using the most energy
- ◆ Recommend ideas for making your home more energy efficient.

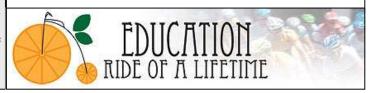
2nd Annual Riverside Citrus Classic Bike Ride

Come join us on October 9, 2011 along with Anthony Zahn of Riverside, a Bronze Paralympian (in Bejing, China

2008), who will be riding with his team members in the 51 mile route and then will be signing autographs at the Fuji booth in the Expo following the ride. "Come ride with me and help join the cause." -- Anthony



The Riverside Citrus Classic is a fun bike ride that consists of 101, 54, 27, 6 mile rides and a kids bike ride. It starts/ends at the Riverside Plaza and includes bike paths, bike trails and scenic highways in and around Riverside. All proceeds go to benefit the Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation (REEF) and the Alvord Educational Foundation to fund programs that assist in increasing graduation rates and encouraging higher education opportunities. Registration closing date is October 6, 2011. Go to www.riversideca.gov/citrusclassic for registration and more information.



SUMMER HEALTH RISKS

Seniors are prone to an increased number of concerns during the summer, and one of the biggest unseen threats is the common air conditioner. While air conditioners in and of themselves are of no threat, misused, malfunctioning or unmaintained air conditioners are a serious concern.

The human body is very much like a machine. It's constantly challenging itself to adapt to its environment and keep up with what's going on externally. Your body is always working to keep a balance between its heat production and heat loss, with your brain acting as an organic thermostat. Long-term heat exposure can cause multiple illnesses or symptoms, such as:



Heat Exhaustion: Heat exhaustion is not measured by how much physical activity you've consciously undertaken, but rather in the struggle for your body to maintain a stable temperature. When the body can no longer cool itself, you'll feel thirsty, dizzy, weak and nauseated. In addition to perfuse sweating, you'll also feel uncoordinated. Stay in a cool place, drink plenty of fluids, but not those containing alcohol or caffeine.

Heat Edema: Edema happens when your body retains water. You might find your ankles and feet swelling when it gets hot. Usually resting the legs help cure this discomfort.

Heat Syncope: A sudden dizziness that may come on when you're active. If you take a form of heart medication known as a beta blocker or are not accustomed to hot weather, you are even more likely to feel faint. Putting your legs up and resting in a cool place should make the dizziness go away.

Heat Stroke: Don't underestimate a heat stroke. Signs of one are fainting, delirium, lack of sweat despite the heat, slow weak pulse or flushed skin with a strong rapid pulse, an above-104-degree Fahrenheit body temperature. These can be deadly, and a senior who has suffered from one needs immediate medical attention. Until help arrives, get the individual to a cool place. To prevent heat stroke, drink plenty of water and stay in a functioning air conditioned environment.

When you finally commit yourself to something, life has a funny way of throwing opportunities in your direction.

Summer Fun

(put away the video games for a couple of hours)

- ◆ Learn to tie knots: A skill useful for camping, sailing or just looking cool and capable. Hit the hardware store and invest in four feet of inexpensive, easy-to-manage 1/4-inch to 1/2-inch nylon rope. You'd be amazed at how many different types of knots there are. Obtain a book on knots.
- Outdoor film festival: No need for an expensive digital projector. Spread sleeping bags on the grass, pop some popcorn and pour it into brown paper bags labeled with each friend's name. Set up the laptop on the grass after dark and watch under the stars.
- Build your own slip 'n slide: Hose + large piece of plastic tarp + layer of dish soap = heaven. Keep the tarp constantly soaked with water.
- Watermelon seed shot-put contest: Place the slippery seeds between your fingers and squeeze, attempting to land seeds in a plastic cup.
- ♦ Learn how to whistle with your fingers
- ◆ Pitch a tent in the backyard: Pretend you're in a campground; read books and make s'mores. Since there's no campfire, carefully melt the marsmallows in the microwave.





Friends Referring Friends!

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

Christian Harder and Kathryn Anger (past and treasured clients)

Jim and Veronica Kaufman

Jason and Julie Lattig

Melanie Vansell

Bob and Joann Wilson

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!!!

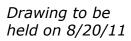
www.TheSisterTeam.com

July/August Quiz Question

In the Robin Hood stories, what was the real name of Little John?

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!





May/June Quiz Answer

Question: Which is the world's smallest continent?

Answer: Australia is the world's smallest continent and the world's largest island, and is about the size of the American mainland.

Congratulations to Victoria Kaufman (8½ yrs old)

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



My name is Dirty Nose

(can you tell why?) and I need a new home!

I also answer to "Kitty". I'm a therapy cat, which means that my front paws are declawed and I get along really well with children. I'm a neutered male and just over a year old. I'm loveable, have really cool tufts of hair that grow from the tips of my ears, and I look forward to meeting you. Please consider adopting me by calling 951-205-4429.

My name is Gypsy.

I disappeared from my home on Brentwood
Avenue on Saturday, July 16, 2011. I do not have a
tail, but I have beautiful yellow eyes, and my left ear
is crimped (doesn't stand at attention like my other ear).
I'm a spayed mature female at least 4 years old.
Because I'm scared, I may not be too friendly, so if
you see me or have trapped me (no questions asked)
please call 951-205-4429.



If you've found or lost a pet, please email or call us and we'll put your pet's photo and description on our website and/or in this newsletter which reaches over 2,000 people per issue.

Please think about donating your old towels, pillows and blankets to your local animal shelter or Humane Society. They'll be used for bedding, baths, etc.

Don't forget to get your pet microchipped! Even if your pet wears a collar and does not go outside, it's still a good idea... plus it isn't that expensive!

For **color photos** of the cats above, please go to www.TheSisterTeam.com/our-blog/our-newsletter and view this newsletter online.





New Law Gives Added Protection to Short Sale Hopefuls

A new California law, effective July 15, 2011, will further protect homeowners pursuing short sales by barring first and secondary lien holders from going after sellers for money owed after the short sales close.

A short sale is a transaction in which the homeowner owes more on the loan than the property is worth. To sell the home, the lien holder or lien holders must approve the sale because the amount owed to the lien holder will be "short" of what is currently owed by the borrower. Real estate tracker, DataQuick, said short sales made up 17.7 percent of Southern California home resales in June 2011.

The new law builds on the protections offered by a previous law, SB 931, which required the first lien holder in a short sale to accept an agreed-upon payment as the full payment for the outstanding loan balance. The previous law did not address junior lien holders. The new law now prohibits secondary lien holders from pursuing deficiencies after a short sale closes.

The California Association of Realtors calls the bill's signing a "victory for California homeowners." This new law brings closure and certainty to the short sale process and ensures that once a lender has agreed to accept a short sale payment on a property, all lien holders — those in first position and in junior positions — will consider the outstanding balance as paid in full and the homeowner will not be held responsible for any additional payments on the property.

— adapted from signonsandiego.com

Toddler Property Laws

- 1. If I like it, it's mine.
- 2. If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- 3. If I can take it from you, it's mine.
- 4. If I had it a little while ago, it's mine.
- 5. If it's mine, it must never appear to be yours in any way.
- 6. If I am doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
- 7. If it looks like mine, it's mine.
- 8. If I saw it first, it's mine.
- 9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
- 10. If it's broken, it's yours.



The average homeowner may spend as much as \$85 a year just to dry clothes.
Save energy and install a clothesline in your back yard!

Do you want to find local businesses that give outstanding customer service?

Request a **free** copy of our Service Directory including

CONTRACTORS,
HANDYMEN,
GARDENERS,
YOGA TEACHERS,
TREE TRIMMERS, etc.

All of the businesses listed have a proven track record for providing the outstanding customer service you deserve!



\$155,000 — 4121 Homewood Court

Built in 1946, this adorable 2-bdrm/1-bth Bungalow in the historical Wood Streets offers over 1150 sq ft, an updated kitchen with granite counter tops, new appliances, and a breakfast bar! Indoor laundry, corner brick fireplace, hardwood floors, formal dining room, drywalled 2-car garage, and privacy block wall in backyard.



\$285,000 — 3920 Linwood Place

Here's your chance to own a 3-bdrm/2-bth California Bungalow, in the heart of the historical Wood Streets, that has been completely remodeled from the ground up (new foundation, framing, copper plumbing, 40-yr roof, Brazilian walnut floors, etc.) with approx 1700 sq ft. Indoor laundry, modern kitchen, pool-sized yard (7840 sq ft) and brand new 2-car garage! Everything is NEW, NEW! You won't be disappointed!



Tara: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429 April: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429 April: (951) 205-4459 A

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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 over 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 15 years!

