

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

MAY/JUNE 2011

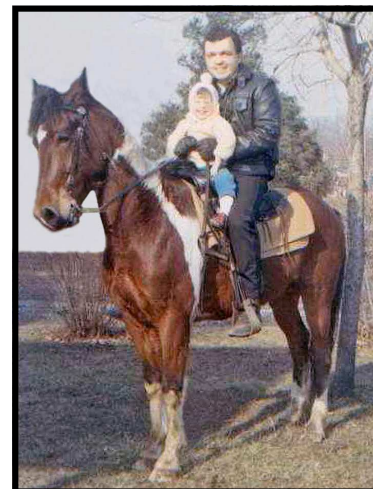
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

While searching the internet for a photo or clipart to accompany a Father's Day article, it brought back memories of searching the greeting card rack for a Father's Day card when we were children. It seemed every greeting card portrayed a father dressed in suit and tie holding a briefcase, playing golf, lounging in a recliner, fishing lakeside, or sleeping in a hammock. None of those images reflected our father.



As a newborn in Pennsylvania, my dad drove my mother and me home from the hospital in a 1960 white convertible Chevy Impala. One and a half years later, he drove my newborn sister, Tara, home in a 1965 greenish gold convertible Mustang. Rain, sun, sleet, wind or snow,

pot holes and all, he drove into the greater Philadelphia area and tuned pianos in a variety of personal residences, and even tuned the professional and personal pianos of Eugene Ormandy, the famous Hungarian conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra.



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As soon as we were able to sit up by ourselves, our dad put us on his horse, which began our never-ending bond and love for animals. He was co-creator of western horse shows where Tara and I learned to compete on our family horses, Geronimo, and Comanche (who lived the remaining days of his 35 years, here in California).

As an artist, he painted flames on our banana-seat bicycles to set ours apart from others. Truth be told, I still have my bike because he stressed the importance of taking care of our belongings and making things last.

Throughout our lives, our dad has always been there for us with wise advice, as he was street-smart and an avid reader.

Since our dad will be reading this, we'd like to personally thank him for being the #1 Dad in our book, as well as being a wonderful Grandpop to Brooklynn!

*Happy Father's Day
to all the other
wonderful Dads out there!*

— April and Tara

Neighborhood News

We now have a Facebook fan page ("The Sister Team") with helpful real estate and neighborhood information! Please check it out and click on the 'Like' button.



Neighbors of the Wood Streets Association (NOWS)

NOWS is a fantastic resource for neighborhood and citywide information and news. Past meetings hosted topics on saving water, summertime pet safety, earthquake preparedness, etc. If you are unable to attend the meetings, please at least sign up to be on the email list for up-to-the-minute notifications of neighborhood news such as street sweeping or missing pets.

Any questions, please contact Corliss D'Agostino (Secretary and Co-Chair) at babeletf@charter.net. The meetings are held every **3rd Thursday 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!



Wood Streets Green Team (WSGT)

WSGT is holding a **RECYCLING WORKSHOP** on reducing, reusing, and recycling household waste on Sunday, **June 12** from 3 pm to 5 pm. The workshop will be held at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore (951-787-6754) located at 2180 Iowa Avenue in Riverside.

It's never too late to learn about recycling, water and energy efficiency, healthy living, and home gardening. For more information on upcoming workshops, and to learn about living more sustainably, go to woodstreetsgreenteam.ning.com.

RIVERSIDE SENIOR PROGRAMS

Work is done. Now it's time for fun. For exciting "Better after 55" programs for the young at heart, you will make new friends, live healthier, and make the most of life. The City of Riverside offers an Activity Guide on their website at www.riversideca.gov/park_rec/activityguide (pages 39-42) which highlights recreational activities and services... some free, some for a fee. Samples below:

For Free: line dancing, low impact aerobics, basic computer classes, yoga, ukulele lessons, aqua aerobics, and much more.

For a Fee: 8-day excursion to Yellowstone National Park and Mount Rushmore National Memorial (July 13-20), 4-day San Francisco Getaway and Napa Valley Wine Train (Aug 16-19), or the Laguna Beach Pageant of the Masters (Aug 18).



Special Transportation offers citywide dial-a-ride service, available to seniors and persons with disabilities. It is available Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The fare is \$2 each way. To reserve a ride, call (951) 687-8080. Online purchases of punch cards available at www.RiversideCa.gov/park_rec. To purchase tickets or punch cards by mail, please send a check or money order made payable to the City of Riverside, PRCS to: Special Transportation, 8095 Lincoln Avenue, Building #A, Riverside, CA 92504. Special priority service is available for those persons eligible under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR REALTOR®

1. How long have you been actively listing and selling real estate on a full-time basis as a Realtor®? Experience does count. It can mean the difference between knowing how to handle a difficult situation to ignoring it or not recognizing the signs of a potential problem before it develops into a crisis. Don't let agents tell you how long their agency has been in real estate — you want to know THEIR history, not their company's history.
2. How many homes have you listed in the last 6 months? This past year?
3. How many transactions have you closed/sold in the last 6 months? This past year?
4. Is the company you're with, nationally known? Statistics show that a full 40% of homes are sold by company name recognition or agent contact.
5. What's the average amount of time one of your standard listings is on the market before it sells?
6. How many homes are you currently marketing? A successful top-producing agent may be more effective at managing many listings than a less experienced agent.
7. What can you tell me about your share of the marketplace compared to other Realtors® in the area?
8. What designations do you hold?
9. How will you market my home?
10. How many hits do you get on your website?
11. Do you personally update your website on a consistent basis and provide specialized information for your clients and your market?
12. Do you belong to a referral network?
13. Do you have any personal marketing materials I can review? The quality of a Realtor®'s personalized marketing pieces is a good indicator of how well they will represent you and your property.
14. How much is your commission?
15. Do you have a cancellation policy?
16. Do you have a performance guarantee?
17. Can you give me the names and phone numbers of at least three most recent clients?
18. Am I comfortable with this person/team? This question is not for the agent — it's for YOU!



**Our office, Re/Max Partners, has been the #1 office
in the Inland Empire for 10 years in a row!!**



Friends Referring Friends!

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

Kelly O'Connor

Doug and Annie Wilson
(past and treasured clients)

Judy and Jon Reese

Ronald Stocking

Robert and Theresa Newham

*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

May/June Quiz Question

What is the world's smallest continent?

*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 6/30/2011*



April Quiz Answer

Question: Which State is called
the Pine Tree state?

Answer: Maine, because it has
over 17 million acres of forest!

**Congratulations to
Victoria Nielsen**

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

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed AND/OR Sold by “The Sister Team”

SOLD

275	Birchwood	\$ 355,000	5 bed, 4 bath	3280 sq ft	No garage
5658	Brockton	\$ 205,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1370 sq ft	2-car garage
3569	Elmwood Ct	\$ 230,000	2 bed, 1.5 bath	1400 sq ft	2-car garage
14094	Harvey	\$ 270,000	3 bed, 2 bath	2088 sq ft	2-car garage
4540	Linwood	\$ 210,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1400 sq ft	2-car garage
6390	Merlin	\$ 415,000	4 bed, 2 bath	2306 sq ft	2-car garage and pool
360	Oak Drive	\$ 135,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1248 sq ft	No garage
5446	Pinehurst	\$ 245,000	4 bed, 2.75 bath	2209 sq ft	2-car carport and pool
3732	Ramona	\$ 235,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1500 sq ft	2-car garage
33146	Shoreline	\$ 177,000	4 bed, 3 bath	2419 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa
4477	Sixth	\$ 360,000	3 bed, 2.5 bath	2200 sq ft	2-car garage
3367	Sunnyside	\$ 212,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1518 sq ft	2-car garage and pool

IN ESCROW

8262	Archibald		4 bed, 2 bath	1528 sq ft	2-car garage (short sale)
6371	Avenue De Palma		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1584 sq ft	2-car garage
3695	Bandini		2 bed, 1 bath	1100 sq ft	1-car garage (short sale)
6095	Elenor		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1471 sq ft	2-car garage
3754	Elmwood Ct	Sold	2 bed, 1 bath	1436 sq ft	2-car garage and pool
3982	Larchwood	prices	5 bed, 2 bath	2000 sq f	2-car garage
4631	Luther	posted	3 bed, 1.25 bath	1397 sq ft	2-car garage
17213	Noble View	in	4 bed, 3 bath	3655 sq ft	4-car garage (short sale)
5428	Quince	next	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1631 sq ft	2-car garage (short sale)
4174	Ramona	“Activity	3 bed, 2.75 bath	1956 sq ft	4-car garage & guest house
1828	Spring Garden	Report”	2 bed, 1 bath	966 sq ft	No garage (short sale)
5444	Tower		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1345 sq ft	2-car gar/pool (short sale)
31773	Via Verde		3 bed, 1.75 bath	1350 sq ft	2-car garage (short sale)

AVAILABLE

4171	Homewood	\$ 225,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1432 sq ft	1-car garage
5139	Magnolia	\$ 249,900	4 bed, 2.75 bath	2440 sq ft	2-car garage (short sale)
4890	Serrano	\$ 134,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1008 sq ft	2-car garage (short sale)

*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 by other Realtors)
in ANY 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!!***



\$225,000
4171 Homewood Court

“Wood Streets”
California Bungalow built in 1912
approximately 1450 sq ft
3 bedrooms (plus bonus room
could be 4th bedroom),
1 bathroom, hardwood floors,
central air conditioning and heat
incredibly gorgeous formal dining room
with wood beamed ceiling and
built-in hutch, indoor laundry,
amazing clinker brick fireplace
1-car detached garage

\$224,900
6095 Elenor Street

Charming 1930s home with flair
(rounded ceilings, fireplace,
original hardwood floors)
Almost 1500 sq ft
3 bedrooms, 1.75 bathrooms,
central air conditioning/heat
modern kitchen with granite counters,
breakfast nook with built-in hutches,
indoor laundry room,
spacious pool-sized backyard
surrounded by privacy block wall
2-car detached garage



\$249,900
5139 Magnolia Avenue

In the heart of the “Wood Streets”
you’ll find this stately two-story
that boasts almost 2500 sq ft.,
4 bedroom (2 masters), 3 bathrooms,
living room with fireplace,
formal dining room,
gigantic family room, indoor laundry,
updated kitchen, central air/heat,
landscaped backyard
2-car attached garage
with 2 carports for
additional covered parking!

\$229,000
4631 Luther

“Magnolia Center”
mid-century home in excellent
condition with not a hair out of place!
Built in 1950, this home has been
occupied by the same family
for half a century!
3 bedrooms, 1.25 bathrooms
1400 sq ft, lovely kitchen,
Hardwood floors, indoor laundry,
central air conditioning/heat
gorgeous pool-sized backyard
2-car attached garage



\$134,900
4890 Serrano Place

Let's talk about value:
Mid-century home on large corner lot
with cute front porch,
3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom,
approximately 1008 sq ft,
central air conditioning and heat,
eat-in galley kitchen,
spacious pool-sized backyard
with custom-built koi pond,
mature trees, and
large side yard for gardening.
2-car attached garage



In just a few short
weeks, on the 4th of
July, every single home in the historic
“Wood Streets” neighborhood will be
decorated and honored with an
American flag (for the **14th year in a
row**) courtesy of
“The Sister Team”

Buyers, don't wait to buy
real estate until the market begins
to recover; you'll pay dearly in
higher interest. Think like a banker
and take advantage of these
historic rates.

Otherwise, you'll have less
buying power, and the interest
you pay will dwarf
any potential drop in value.



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Place
Stamp
Here

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!



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