

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

NOVEMBER 2010

Giving Thanks

The point of Thanksgiving is to remember the things we have to be grateful for. It's our special time to give thanks... not just for the obvious, like food, but for the thousands of fortunate moments and the multitude of blessings that we receive each year.

That's not always as easy as it sounds. We tend to remember the bad things much more easily than the good. That's where this article comes in. Using the tips below, you can make thankfulness an everyday habit. It's a skill that will benefit you throughout the year.

Begin by keeping a gratitude journal. Don't write down negative things; only positive. For example, "I'm grateful that I safely made it through that heavy rush hour traffic." "I'm grateful that I have a class at school that I really like."

Think of the good things that happened because something bad happened first. For example, "If that slow driver hadn't pulled in front of me, I would have gotten a speeding ticket." "If I hadn't experienced unemployment, I would never have acquired the skills that got me a more fulfilling job."

Think about people who have made you thankful for their existence. They can be family, friends or simply people that you've read about or seen on TV. Imagine how many other people there are who might be equally as wonderful; you just haven't met them yet.

Think about people who have made life hard on you. Now think about the things you accomplished because of them. Did you finish something because they said that you couldn't? Did you get better at something because they made fun of you when you did it badly? Did their cruel actions make you vow never to treat others that way? Even the negative forces in your life can be hidden blessings, worthy of your gratitude.

Think about the animals that have given you joy: dogs that love you with every inch of their hearts, cats that think your lap is the best place in the whole world, birds whose songs uplift your spirit, squirrels whose antics put a grin on your face, and so on.

Think about the places that make you smile: a favorite hangout, a wooded trail, an exciting city, a great spot from which to view the sky, a hill that you once rolled down. Give thanks for all of these things as well.

Now pass it on. True gratitude involves action. Lend a hand. Pitch in. Make a gift. Give your time. Listen. Give back as often as you can. Even a friendly greeting can make all the difference in the world.

Gratitude can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

We are thankful for so much, including our Chit Chat readers! Happy Thanksgiving!

— Tara and April



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Santa Claus is Getting Ready...

The Kids' Korner (Fun Craft and Maze)

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Turtle Pumpkin Pie

1 6 oz. graham cracker pie crust
 1/4 cup caramel ice cream topping
 1/2 cup chopped pecans
 1 cup cold milk
 2 packages vanilla instant pudding
 1 cup canned pumpkin
 1 tsp ground cinnamon
 1 tsp ground nutmeg
 1 8oz. tub whipped topping
 2 tbsp caramel ice cream topping
 2 tbsp chopped pecans

Pour the 1/4 cup caramel topping into bottom of pie crust and sprinkle with 1/2 cup chopped pecans. Beat the milk, canned pumpkin, dry pudding mix and spices with a whisk until blended. Spread onto the caramel-nut mixture in bottom of crust. Refrigerate 1 hour. Top with remaining whipped topping. Drizzle with remaining caramel topping and pecans before serving. Refrigerate any leftovers.

Wood Streets Halloween

Unless you've actually experienced what we're about to share, you probably would not believe! Handing out candy to trick-or-treaters is always a treat, yet we joke that two house sales per year are necessary just to pay for the Halloween candy we pass out each year on Chapman Place! 😄

Being the safe and friendly neighborhood that the Wood Streets is, parents and children from afar drive here to experience what looks like an evening at "Disneyland" on Chapman Place, which is blocked at both ends so that no vehicular traffic will interfere with the carefree trick-or-treaters.

One of our neighbors started with a storage bin of 2,600 pieces of candy and handed out one piece per child. We continued to hand out candy for another half hour after that, so it's safe to say that we had at least 2,600 (yes, that is two THOUSAND six hundred) ghosts, witches, princesses, vampires and pirates visit Tara's front door on Halloween night here in the Wood Streets neighborhood!

Home Remedies

When it comes to taking care of your family and yourself, your health is no place to cut corners. "While patients should always see their doctors for regular checkups and treatment for significant medical issues, it is possible to supplement that care with cost-effective home remedies" says Dr. Philip Hagen, a preventive medicine expert at Mayo Clinic.

Mayo Clinic experts offer guidance, both in books and online, for anyone interested in trying home remedies:



*"They never phone, they never visit,
 they never text message..."*

- ♦ Chili pepper seed, when used as a rub applied directly to skin, may ease aching joints.
- ♦ Ginger is thought to relieve nausea; many Asian cultures incorporate it into their diets as a digestive aid.
- ♦ A neti pot, a small pot with a long spout, may help reduce sinus inflammation caused by allergies.
- ♦ Insomniacs may find relief by inhaling the fragrance of lavender.
- ♦ Vinegar is thought to reduce nail fungus. Soak feet for 15-20 minutes in mixture of one part vinegar, two parts warm water.

"Home remedies may not be appropriate for treating every situation; when in doubt, it is always best to consult a medical professional," says Hagen.

I'll Take The Job

At the end of a job interview, the head of human resources asks the young engineer fresh out of MIT, "What starting salary were you looking for?"

The engineer decides to shoot for the moon. "I'm thinking in the range of \$125,000 a year or so, depending on the benefits package."

"Hmmm," says the interviewer. "Well, what would you say to five weeks' vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, a retirement fund with company matching 50 percent of salary, and a company car leased every two years?"

The engineer gapes and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?"

"Yeah," replies the interviewer, "but you started it."

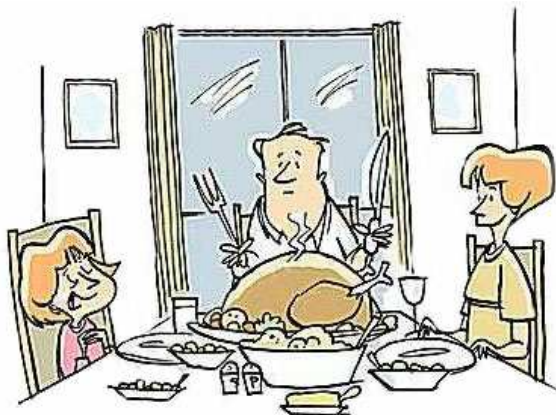


Off to The Grocery

Jerry was completely lost in the kitchen and for the most part never ate unless someone prepared a meal for him.

Trying to break these poor habits, Jerry volunteered to go to the grocery store, but asked for a list since he would be out of his element. His wife gave him a carefully numbered list of seven items. Jerry returned shortly, very proud of himself, and proceeded to unpack the grocery bags. He couldn't understand why his wife was laughing so hard; after all, he bought what was written on the list!

Jerry purchased one bag of sugar, two dozen eggs, three hams, four loaves of bread, five packages of crackers, six tomatoes, and seven cans of soda.



I'm thankful you didn't make turnips!

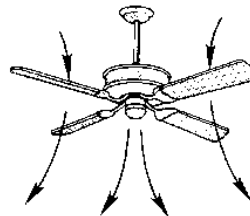


A Ceiling Fan in Winter?

Ceiling fans provide great air circulation and you can optimize these benefits by ensuring the ceiling fan rotation of the blades is correct for circulating warm air during winter. During winter heating, to help move warm air that is trapped on the ceiling, blades should turn in a clockwise motion. This movement will push up the air and pull the warm trapped air down the sides of the room improving heat distribution.

Ceiling fans in themselves do not heat or cool a room, but the ceiling fan rotation allows improved air circulation, which can greatly improve the comfort of your living space. Save in energy costs when the ceiling fan is on the correct setting to support your cooling or heating efforts.

In winter, as hot air rises, it becomes trapped at ceiling level. On the correct winter setting, you would feel practically no air movement underneath and only a little air circulation closer to the walls.

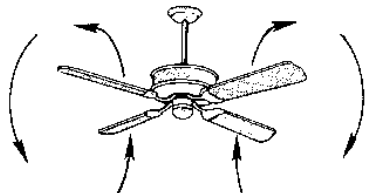


Forward

For cooling effect during the summer, your fan should run in the forward direction (counter-clockwise). This will force the room air down, giving you the wind chill effect that makes you feel cooler.

Reverse

During the winter, your fan should run in reverse (clockwise) at a low speed. This will gently draw the room air up towards the ceiling and force the warm air down and out towards the walls, avoiding giving you the wind chill effect.



Friends Referring Friends!

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

John and Ann Hamilton ("For years, we've read the Chit Chat that my mother received on her front door, and when it came time to sell, we called upon "The Sister Team" to list the home.)

Lisa Biddle (currently selling a home *and* buying a home through "The Sister Team")

Shelbie Bogner (family member)

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

November Quiz Question

What is the day after Thanksgiving known as?

*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 11/30/2010*



October Quiz Answer

Question: In the lingo of the American West, by what name is a motherless calf known?

Answer: A "dogie" — pronounced with a long 'o'. Some people answered "maverick"; however, a maverick is an unbranded calf that has become separated from its mother, traditionally considered the property of the first person who brands it.

**Congratulations to
Joan Page**

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

Thanksgiving Pet Dangers

There can be deadly consequences for animals during the holidays like excessive food consumption of rich or harmful foods, ingestion of toxic items/decorations, candle flames, and many other hazards.

Before you sit down to feast, take away temptations from both guests and pets. Feed pets before guests arrive, and use a pet gate or playpen to house the pet nearby, but provide a safety barrier. One of the easiest ways to avoid trouble is to make sure your guests know the pet rules.

Biggest hazards to pets on Thanksgiving include rich fatty foods like gravy and turkey skins (which can contribute to pancreatitis), cooked bones can splinter and cause tears or obstruction in the digestive tract, and onions in stuffing can lead to canine anemia.

The best thing to do is take preventative safety measures and store food in tightly closed containers and out of reach, and make sure garbage cans are secured to prevent e-coli poisoning and chewing on leftover tinfoil. By the way, don't forget to recycle your tinfoil!

Finally, just in case you have a problem, it's always a good idea to keep emergency vet clinic or hospital numbers handy.

FOUND:
Long-haired Siamese cat
in the Wood Streets neighborhood.
Please see our website
(www.TheSisterTeam.com)
or call
(951) 205-4429.

Recent Success Story

"The Sister Team" recently found two Chihuahuas running hopelessly around the neighborhood. Immediately the dogs were taken to a local veterinarian for a free scan to determine if they had microchips; unfortunately they did not. However, shortly after posting the dogs' information and photos on our website, and before we were able to post "found" signs in the neighborhood, the distraught owners posted signs and the dogs were happily reunited with their owners!

We contributed to the
spaying and neutering
of six cats
this
month!



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 (www.TheSisterTeam.com/community/lost-found), so a happy reunion can be arranged with the proper owner! We also showcase adoptable pets as well.

You should also go online to Riverside County Department of Animal Services (www.rcdas.org) to view all dogs and cats that are either lost, found, or adoptable. This is a great service — and convenient!



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!

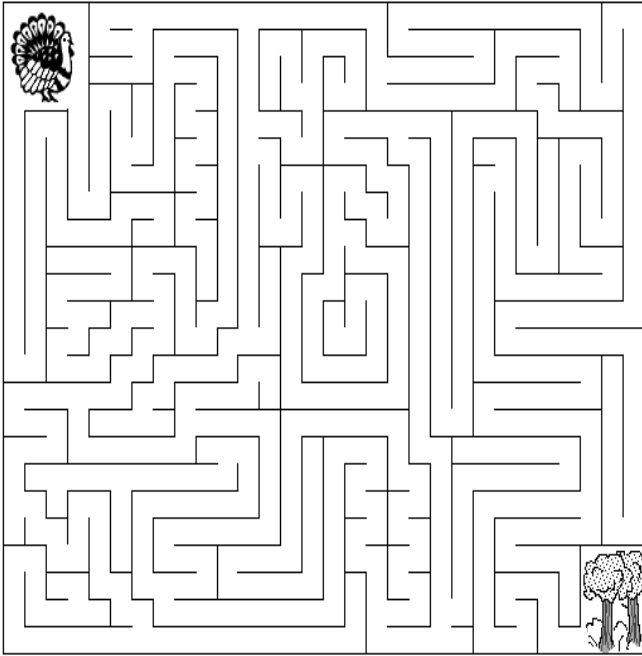
We are willing and able to *confidentially* help those who are unable or unwilling to spay or neuter their companion (or stray) animals.

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

Help the turkey escape into the woods!



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.



**Santa Claus is getting ready...
...to make a special appearance!!**

"Cookies with Santa"

at 3943 Chapman Place
(the house with the train)
on Sunday, December 12th
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Santa's helpers will be serving hot chocolate and cookies!
Bring the family, and your camera, for photo ops
with Santa Claus, and the smoke-billowing train!



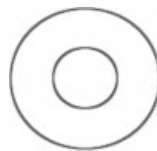
Brooklynn was a bit scared of Santa in 2008, even while being held by mom, but she's looking forward to seeing him this year!

Handprint Thanksgiving Wreath

A keepsake craft that the entire family will be able to participate in (and enjoy for years to come)!

You'll need the following items:

- ◆ construction paper, felt or craft foam in autumn colors
- ◆ poster board to make a wreath ring (see sample →)
- ◆ scissors
- ◆ glue
- ◆ brown buttons or small acorns
- ◆ permanent marker



wreath ring

Fashion the wreath leaves by tracing the entire family's hands (from kids, mom/dad, aunt/uncle, grandparents, etc.) on colored paper. Then cut several hands in a variety of colors. If you are using paper or craft foam, as opposed to felt, use markers to write messages on the hands, listing reasons to be thankful, or each family member's name.

Cut out the wreath ring using poster board or cardboard. Glue the felt or paper hands randomly around the wreath until the cardboard is covered. Then attach buttons or acorns with glue. Add ribbon for hanging. Don't forget to write the date on the back of the wreath.



The Kids'
Korner

GOT
REAL ESTATE *QUESTIONS*???

WE'VE GOT
REAL ESTATE *ANSWERS*!!!



What is a **short sale**?

A short sale (or pre-foreclosure) is a sales transaction in which the seller's mortgage lender agrees to accept a payoff of less than the balance due on the loan. The short sale process is still a mystery to many people, and not every listing agent is familiar, or has experience, with short sales. "The Sister Team" is in escrow on short sales right now, we have closed escrows on short sales in the past, and will continue to list and sell short sales in the future due to our vast experience. There is no substitute for experience. In a profession filled with complex issues, you need to place your trust in experienced Realtors like us.

Banks grant short sales for two reasons: the seller has a hardship, and the seller owes more on the mortgage than the home is worth. Examples of hardships are unemployment, reduction of income, divorce, medical emergency, job transfer, bankruptcy, and death. There may be a very long wait to get a response from the bank, but with a little patience, the lengthy process will end in a successful sale for sellers, and successful homeownership for buyers.

* A special note to **homeowners facing foreclosure**: Scammers are targeting people having trouble paying their mortgages. Some claim to be able to "rescue" homeowners from foreclosure, while others promise loan modifications — for a fee. Steer clear of anyone who offers an easy out. Don't pay anyone who promises to prevent foreclosure. Don't send your mortgage payment to anyone other than your mortgage servicer. Don't pay for a second opinion. Talk to a HUD-Certified Counseling Agency — for FREE. If you're having trouble paying your mortgage or have already received a delinquency notice, free help can be had by calling 1-888-995-HOPE. This national hotline is open 24/7 and is operated by the Homeownership Preservation Foundation. For free guidance online, visit www.hopenow.com.



\$235,000 — 3569 Elmwood Dr., Riverside

"Wood Streets" Spanish Mediterranean Revival

This 2-bedroom, 2-bath home, approx 1400 sq ft, has been in the same family for over 50 years!

Gorgeous hardwood floors, built-ins, fireplace, coved and beamed ceilings, breakfast nook and 2-car garage!

Go to www.TheSisterTeam.com for more photos!



\$225,000 — 5758 Brockton Ave., Riverside

"Wood Streets" 3-bedroom, 1-bath cottage with approx 1375 sq ft, has brand new exterior paint, fireplace, refinished hardwood floors, new stove, new carpet, indoor laundry, pool-sized yard with separate garden, and 2-car garage plus RV parking!

Go to www.TheSisterTeam.com for more photos!



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Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
Here

Happy 8th Birthday, Chit Chat!

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to almost 2,000 homes every issue, is celebrating its 8th 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 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 13 years!

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