

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JULY 2010

Shake It Off!

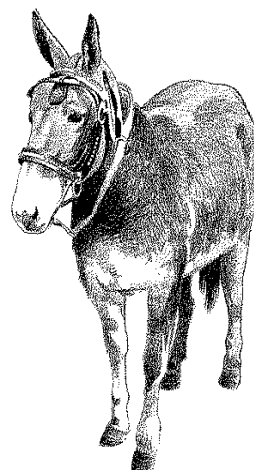
One day a farmer's donkey fell into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally he decided the animal was old and the well needed to be covered up anyway, so it just wasn't worth the time and effort to save the donkey.

The farmer invited all his neighbors to help by grabbing shovels and shoveling dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, he became silent. A few shovel loads later, the farmer looked into the well and was astonished at what he saw. With every shovelful of dirt that hit his back, the donkey did something amazing — he shook off the dirt and took a step up. Pretty soon, the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and trotted off!

Life is going to shovel dirt on you — all kinds of dirt. Each of our troubles is a stepping stone. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, and never giving up. Shake it off and take a step up!

This story helps us remember that some of our greatest challenges help us in unforeseen ways!

Tara and April



Inside Chit Chat

The Senior Scene (new feature)

Recycling Contest for Local Kid\$

The Pet Page (vaccinations/microchipping)

Pool Safety Tips

The Kids' Korner (new feature)

Real Estate (short sale help, listings, etc.)

Independence Day — 2010

For the 13th consecutive year, we hand-delivered 2,000 American flags to our Wood Streets neighbors on the morning of July 4th. With some new helpers this year, this was our largest group yet!



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

www.TheSisterTeam.com

The best way to stay up-to-date on the real estate industry and the numerous community events going on in Riverside is to request an email subscription to our blog through the "RSS Feed" tab on the top right corner of our website. Your email address will *never* be shared with anyone, and you'll be able to take advantage of time-sensitive information we blog about in-between issues of this newsletter.

Our website is a team effort — between us and you! We look forward to hearing your feedback and ideas. If you have an upcoming event you would like us to promote, let us know.... we'll be happy to do so. Not only can you take advantage of the Lost and Found section, but there's also information on financing, community happenings, eight years' worth of past newsletters, information for Buyers and Sellers, and FREE access to the MLS. We're also in the process of creating a Facebook fan page . We'll keep you posted when that's up and running.

And remember... we're able to assist you, or anyone you know, with real estate needs throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Italy, South Africa, etc. We're your one-stop-shop go-to team!!!

GREEN TIP: *When going to an ATM machine or "pay at the pump" gas station, say "NO" to a receipt. You'll save tons of paper.*



Great advice for all ages!

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends, and less time working. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them. I'm not "saving" anything; I now use my good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, unclogging the sink, or the first new blooms of the season!

I wear my good blazer to the market. I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank. "Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary; if it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now!

I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted. I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles. I'd like to think they would have gone out for an Italian dinner or for whatever their favorite food was. I don't want to leave little things undone; I will tell my husband how much I truly love him. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to my life now.

Every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift. Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

{this was written by an 83-year-old}

Dear Seniors,

We understand you may not have access to a computer, so if you'd like us to keep you in-the-loop with weekly information that we post on our website, please let us know and we'll be glad to assist.

—Tara and April

Way To Go, Einstein!

When Albert Einstein was making the rounds of the speaker's circuit, he usually found himself eagerly longing to get back to his laboratory work. One night as they were driving to yet another rubber-chicken dinner, Einstein mentioned to his chauffeur (a man who just happened to resemble Einstein in looks and manner) that he was tired of speechmaking.

"I have an idea, boss," his chauffeur said. "I've heard you give this speech so many times. I'll bet I could give it for you." Einstein laughed loudly and said, "Why not! Let's do it!" When they arrived at the dinner, Einstein donned the chauffeur's cap and jacket and sat in the back of the room. The chauffeur gave a beautiful rendition of Einstein's speech and even answered a few questions expertly.

Then a supremely pompous professor asked an extremely esoteric question about anti-matter formation, digressing here and there to let everyone in the audience know that he was nobody's fool. Without missing a beat, the chauffeur fixed the professor with a steely stare and said: "Sir, the answer to that question is so simple that I will let my chauffeur, who is sitting in the back, answer it for me."



Misunderstood Politician

Little Timmy wanted \$100 badly and prayed for two weeks but nothing happened.

So he decided to write a letter to God requesting the \$100. When the postal authorities received the letter addressed to "God, USA" they decided to send it to the President.

The President was so impressed, touched and amused, that he instructed his secretary to send Timmy a five dollar bill, thinking this would appear to be a lot of money to a little boy.

Timmy was delighted with the \$5.00 and sat down to write a thank you note to God, which read:

Dear God,

Thank you very much for sending the money; however, I noticed that for some reason you had to send it through Washington D.C. and, as usual, those crooks deducted \$95.00.

Thanks,

Timmy

Recycling Contest for Local Kid\$

As mentioned in our May 2010 issue of the Chit Chat, "The Sister Team" would like to encourage local children to participate in a recycling contest. With a deadline of Saturday, July 31, 2010, we will match dollar-for-dollar the child who collects the most recyclables in four separate categories (glass, aluminum, plastic and paper/cardboard).



You are encouraged to participate in as many categories as you like. Not only will you provide a valuable community service by removing trash from the ground and beautifying your neighborhood, but you will learn the value of a dollar.

All recyclables are to be turned into Riverside Recycling at 2993 6th Street, Riverside CA 92507. Don't forget to keep your receipts as you turn in your recyclables. Please call (951) 205-4429 for contest details.

Some local children have already informed us that they are doing their best in recycling as many items as possible while trying to raise money for cheerleading uniforms, bikes, school supplies, pet supplies, trips, pizza parties, scooters, shoes and clothing.

As a result of this recycling contest (and future contests), you will find that recyclables are being diverted from the waste stream and you are helping to keep valuable natural resources from ending up in a landfill. We are trying to educate the next generation on the value of caring for our community and environment.



Friends Referring Friends!

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

Julia Schwanz (past and treasured client)

Gary and Misty Warren
(referred by Teresa Chavez, a past and
treasured client)

Steve Leister (referred by Jeff and Sunni Woolf,
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

July Quiz Question

What is the world's largest herb?

*Everyone 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 8/14/10*



May Quiz Answer

Question: On average, how many eggs
can a hen lay in one year?

Answer: The number of eggs varies,
depending on the breed of hen;
however, a typical hen will lay
almost one per day for the first year.

**Congratulations to
Marybeth Navas**

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

Vaccinations and Microchipping Clinics

The Department of Animal Services (www.rcdas.org) offers low-cost vaccinations and microchipping on the third Saturday of every month at the new Western Riverside County/City Animal Shelter. The shelter is located at 6851 Van Buren Blvd. where Clay Street intersects with Van Buren Blvd., just north of the Santa Ana River. The vaccination/microchipping clinic runs between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and no appointment is necessary.

If you don't have a car and need a ride to take your pet to the clinic, please give "The Sister Team" a call at (951) 205-4429 a few days in advance so we may be sure to arrange transportation for you, at no cost!



Canine fees

Rabies: \$6

DHPP: \$15

Bordatella: \$12

Feline fees

Rabies: \$6

FVRCP: \$15

Microchips (dogs or cats)

\$28 - includes registration and lifetime monitoring

Donate your old towels, pillows and blankets to your local animal shelter or Humane Society. They'll use them for bedding, baths, etc. Thanks!

Each day approximately 10,000 humans are born in the U.S., and each day approximately 70,000 puppies and kittens are born. As long as these birth rates exist, there will never be enough homes for all of the animals. As a result, every year 4 to 6 million animals are euthanized because there are no homes for them. Please spay and neuter your pets. It's good for you, your pet, and the community!



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



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!

POOL SAFETY TIPS

1. Never leave a child unattended near water in a pool, tub, bucket or ocean.
2. Do not use flotation devices as a substitute for adult supervision.
3. If a child is missing, always check the pool first. Seconds matter!
4. Doors and windows should be alarmed to alert adults when opened.
5. Learn CPR and rescue breathing.
6. Remove toys from in and around the pool when not in use, to prevent a child going in on their own to retrieve them.
7. Never dive into water unless an adult okays the depth.
8. Keep a phone at poolside so that you never have to leave the pool to answer the phone, and can call for help if needed.
9. Keep the pool area locked when not in use.
10. Be sure to set pool safety guidelines for sitters.
11. Never “pretend” to call for help.
12. No running on the pool deck.
13. Do not horse around by holding someone under the water.
14. Swimming lessons generally begin over age four or when children are ready to start to learn how to swim. Each child will be ready to learn in their own time, depending on their development.
15. Keep rescue equipment by the pool — shepherd’s hook, safety ring, and rope.



Betcha Can't Pick up This Dollar Bill!

Have your friend stand against a wall with her heels touching the wall. Place a dollar bill on the floor in front of her. Ask your friend to lean down and pick up the dollar bill without bending her knees and without moving her feet. Don't think it can be done!



Betcha Can't Put Two Pencil Points Together!

Tell your friend to hold one pencil in each hand with the pencil points facing each other. Tell him to close one eye and try to touch the points of the pencils together. Your friend will realize that this is harder than he thought it would be.



Alphabet Animal Game

ABCDE
FGHIJK
LMNOP
QRSTU
VWXYZ

Think of an animal that begins with the letter 'a' (like ant). The next person has to think of an animal which begins with the last letter of the previous animal which was named, within a certain time limit. [Example: an(t) (t)urtle] Continue the pattern until someone fails to think of an animal. Note: instead of animals, you can use fruits, vegetables, cars, countries, or anything else you can think of. You only need two to play this game, but the more the better!

Hey Kids, don't forget to read the bottom of page 3 of this newsletter
for a chance to earn some money
and provide a valuable community service at the same time!

The Kids'
Korner



NEED HELP?

Do you want to sell your home, but owe more than it's worth?
Are you behind in your mortgage payments?

Contact us today.

We can work together to sell your house,
even if you have no equity.

You have options!

With our help, you can sell for less than what you owe the bank.

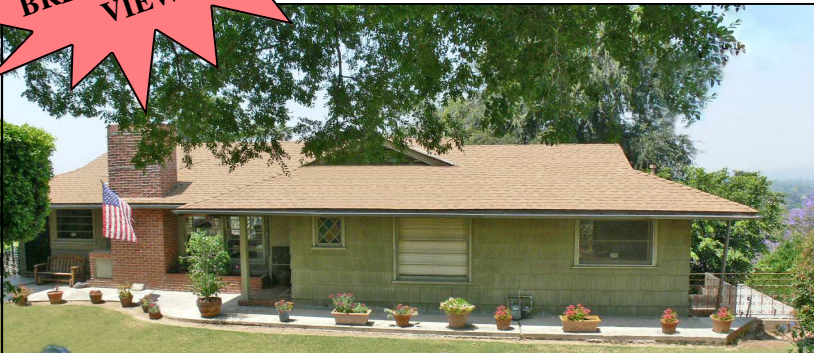
It costs you nothing to work with us!

Get a new start on your life and call us today.

We are seasoned professionals
and have experience with short sales.

Don't wait til it's too late!

**BREATHTAKING
VIEW!**



\$349,900 — 3233 Pachappa Hill

Incredible views that go on forever and ever!

Split level home built in 1945 has 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms,
2,300+ square feet, custom library with rolling ladder,
hardwood floors under carpeting, fireplace,
and a view from almost every room in the house!

Large yard (14,374 sq ft) on over a quarter acre
and 2-car garage with bonus room/office above the garage
(could be reverted back to guest quarters).

This is not a foreclosure or short sale.

Go to www.TheSisterTeam.com for more listings!



"Oh, you'll love the yard ... it's
absolutely saturated with bones."

TESTIMONIAL: From the bottom of our hearts, thank you again for everything that you have done for us. You have definitely been one of the kindest and most caring professionals that we've ever had the pleasure of meeting — we feel like we should be paying Tom a finder's fee for leading us to you! The hard work and dedication that you have put into our life's biggest events, will never be forgotten.

— Kerry and Emily Brenner



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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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