

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

MARCH 2003

The new year is in full swing and we hope yours is off to a great start! If real estate plans are in your future, or you simply want to know what your home is worth at this time, we are always here to help. - Tara & April

Hope you had a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day is mostly a religious holiday to honor Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick, who was born into a wealthy British family at the end of the 4th century. Taken prisoner, he was a slave in Ireland for six years before he escaped back to Britain. Because of a dream that instructed him to return to Ireland as a missionary, Patrick studied for 15 years, was ordained, and returned to Ireland. His aim was to steer the Irish away from their nature-based pagan religion toward Christianity, as well as to minister to Christians already living there. Patrick attempted to integrate the old rituals into his teachings about Christianity. Patrick worked for 30 years as a missionary. Today, 93% of the population practices Catholicism. So church services and family gatherings are the order of the day on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.



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Irish Trivia

- ♣ The first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland but in New York City on March 17, 1762. It featured Irish soldiers who were serving in the Union military, as a way to help reconnect with their Irish roots.
- ♣ The famous radio western, "The Lone Ranger," began on January 30, 1933. It ran for 2,956 episodes, ending on the radio in 1954. Tonto, the Indian scout, was played for almost the entire run by a bald-headed Irishman named John Todd.
- ♣ After playing 40 years in blue jerseys, Notre Dame's "Fighting Irish" wore brilliant green jerseys and stockings for the first time on November 12, 1927. The Irish have been wearing the lucky green uniforms ever since.

Protect Your Home While You're Away

If you're one of those lucky folks who will be getting out of town for spring break, read the important tips below. They could save you from coming back to a ransacked home.

The key to protecting your home when you're away is to make your home look as though you're in residence.

- ☞ Keep shades and blinds in their normal positions.
- ☞ Stop mail and newspapers, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- ☞ Put household lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- ☞ Arrange to have grass mowed while you're gone.
- ☞ Make sure all your door and window locks are in working order – and use them.
- ☞ Activate your home alarm (if you have one).
- ☞ Leave a radio on – or put it on a timer. Remember to turn it up loud enough to be heard at exterior doors (but not loud enough to disturb your neighbors!).
- ☞ Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway overnight or at random times during the day.
- ☞ Don't forget to lock the garage door and the door leading from the garage into the house, if attached.

– Adapted from the *National Crime Prevention Council* website

Household Tips

LOOSEN RUSTY SCREWS: Loosen a rusty screw, bolt, or nut from a metal surface using a shot of penetrating oil. (Do not use this on a wood surface since the wood could absorb the oil.) If you don't have oil, try hydrogen peroxide, white vinegar, household ammonia, or a carbonated beverage. If these don't work, heat the metal with an iron, tap it with a hammer while it's still hot, and try to loosen it again.

REMOVING STAINS FROM DISHWASHER: If you have a black coating built up on the sides and bottom of your dishwasher, buy acetic acid from a hardware store and mix one part acetic acid to four parts water. Wear rubber gloves and goggles.

Wash the inside of the machine with the solution, then throw two tablespoons of baking soda into the empty unit and run it through a complete cycle.

Tax Tips

Can you believe the dreaded April 15th tax day is just around the corner again? Be sure to check out the websites below to make sure you haven't missed something deductible. Since the tax laws change every year, it's always a good idea to find out what's new and what's out-of-date. If you need a good CPA to help you prepare your taxes, just give us a call and we'll refer you to someone who will give you SUPER service. To help you get a jump-start on your taxes, here are some on-line sites that may be useful:

<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>:

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) official site where you can learn about exemptions, estimating tax liability, and more.

www.irs.gov/help:

The IRS gives free, personalized answers to general tax law questions via e-mail.

<http://www.taxfoundation.org>:

The Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that provides information on federal and state tax policy, tax rates and collections, and the economics of taxation.

<http://taxes.yahoo.com>:

Yahoo! Tax Center, for tax tips, file tax forms on-line, or file for an extension.

http://smallbusiness.yahoo.com/resources/articles/legal_and_government.html:

Yahoo! Small Business/Taxes for tips, news, forms, and more for the small businessperson.

<http://www.turbotax.com>:

The Quicken Tax Center covers personal and small business issues, featuring a calendar, statistics, notifications of law changes, a tax estimator, and more.



What You Should Know About Software Viruses

A software virus is a program designed to change the way your computer operates without your consent. Some viruses are intentionally written to delete files, corrupt programs or erase disks. By definition a virus replicates, spreading itself by attaching copies to other files.

Macro viruses spread whenever you open an infected file and can be transferred across platforms. They can destroy and change data saved on your computer.

Trojan horse is a term used to describe a computer program that appears to serve a useful purpose or have entertainment value, but in fact is designed to damage files or install another virus on your computer. A Trojan horse is technically not a virus itself because it does not replicate. It is a means of delivering a virus. However, any file that contains a Trojan horse cannot be repaired and must be deleted immediately.

Worms are programs that copy themselves without necessarily altering other programs. They damage systems by making so many copies of themselves that they can slow down a computer. Like Trojan horses, worms cannot be repaired, so any file that is infected must be deleted completely.

You should be suspicious of any program that you download from a newsgroup, website or e-mail attachment. Using an up-to-date virus protection program, you should scan everything you download.

– Adapted from *Norton 2002 AntiVirus User's Guide*

Welcome

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" this past month. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Chris Rogers
(past and treasured client)

Mike and Dana Robson
(new clients)

John Biedermann and Sandra Parker
(referred by Sheri Scott, a treasured client)

Noel and Kim Ubiadas
(own a home in the "Wood Streets")

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.

February Quiz Answer

Question: What is the world's most recorded song?

Answer: "Yesterday." It was written by Beatles Paul McCartney and John Lennon.

Source: <http://docs.yahoo.com/docs/pr/release784.html>

Congratulations to
Gilberto Angelo

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 Barnes & Noble Gift Certificate!

March Quiz Question

What is the loudest animal on earth?

Whoever responds with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate to Nordstrom.

Drawing to be held on 3/30/03



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No need to wonder about the price. No need to call a high-pressure sales agent who will just make you feel obligated. Our computers can send you the information quickly and easily, for any house, listed or sold, anywhere!!

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Leave the address on our voicemail pager:
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We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

From the Heart...

What Are Manners Really?

To most folks manners are how to eat at a fine restaurant, then to others it is the use of "please" and "thank you." We don't quarrel with either of these, but we believe manners are far more than most of us ever consider.

To quote a wonderful lady with great insight (Mrs. Hermine Hartley), "Manners are more than using the right fork. They're using the right attitude. Our behavior can affect our relationships much more than our etiquette....manners are not stuffy rules wearing white ties and tails. They can show up in t-shirts and jeans. Manners are simply a matter of how we behave. How we treat one another. Good manners show respect and consideration for others. They're not simply a veneer we put on. Manners come from the heart. Good manners are really a form of love." Mrs. Hartley gives some quotes as examples of the basis of manners.

- 1) "Do unto others as you would have done unto yourself." *The Golden Rule*
- 2) "Self-respect is at the bottom of all good manners." *Edgar S. Martin*
- 3) "Carefully avoid in yourself those things which annoy you in others." *Thomas A. Kempis*
- 4) "As in all of life, the critical thing is whether we take things for granted or take them with gratitude." *G.K. Chesterton*

Often today people are bombarded with rude, crass, and shock value behavior. All of which comes from a lack of self respect and/or a lack of being taught manners. Rather than being rude right back, or totally staying away from people with such behaviors, we believe we should teach by practicing being considerate and respectful. After all that's how we'd want others to be with us; considerate of our feelings and of our things, and respectful as fellow humans. Also we should consider tolerance. To tolerate has two opposing definitions in the dictionary. The first is "to respect (others' beliefs, practices, etc.) without sharing them." The other is "to put up with". No one should "put up with" bad behavior in the name of good manners. There are many kind and creative ways to express differences without being rude or disrespectful. So if you choose to tolerate, do so with respect, and if you choose not to tolerate, also do so with respect.

To quote Mrs. Hartley again, "The best time to tackle a minor problem is before it grows up." Children learn best by example, so the old saying of "more is caught than taught" is ever so true. If our children hear us speaking disrespectfully, or see us acting selfishly, then they will follow suit. Most social behavior attitudes are learned before the first grade from children studying their parents. Besides being a good role model, love is the greatest influence we have on our children. If a child feels understood, recognized, and loved, then the only manners we will have to teach are etiquette.

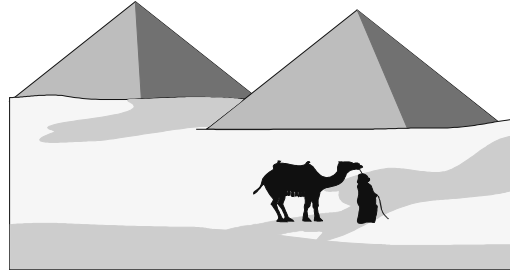
Tara & April Glatzel

P.S. When we think of our parents and their endless "sit straight at the table" "never interrupt" "knock on a closed door" etc.... all have been useful in adult life. As teenagers, we recall thinking that our parents' insistence was annoying and bossy. Now we think it was an effort well spent, so we'd like to say to our mother and father...Thank You!

The Seven Wonders

A group of students was asked to list what they thought were the present Seven Wonders of The World. Though there was some disagreement, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramid
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall



While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one quiet student hadn't turned in her paper yet, so she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read her list. Her Seven Wonders of The World were:

1. To touch
2. To taste
3. To see
4. To hear

She paused, then added:

5. To feel
6. To laugh
7. And to love

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. Those things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are truly wondrous!

This little story was a big reminder that we often overlook what's truly wondrous in our world.

-- Tara & April

Spring Organizing

Here are some ways to make spring-cleaning easier and safer.

From your closets and rooms, pull out items you don't want or use, and donate them to a local charity. Do not stack or store paper items in attics, basements, or garages. They attract pests and can create a fire hazard. Recycle them or donate them to a nursery school, senior center, or library to be used for craft projects.

If there are children or pets in the house, pick one shelf or closet for cleaning products. Lock it if possible. Remember, even non-toxic cleaners can be harmful if swallowed.

To save steps and to keep from hauling cleaning supplies up and down stairs, keep a supply on each floor. To prevent dirt from building up in places that are used often, such as bathroom sinks, keep a sponge nearby so family members can wipe off the area after each use.

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RIVERSIDE
EXQUISITE HISTORIAL 1911 "CRAFTSMAN"
IN THE COLONY HEIGHTS DISTRICT



Despite the extensive and costly renovations by the owners of this magnificent piece of history, they've retained the original splendor. This home boasts the original woodwork throughout, original hardware (doorknobs, face plates, hinges, etc.), original and functioning parlor room/dining room pocket doors, original dining room hutch, original wainscoting and plate rails, original leaded glass windows that open easily, original hardwood floors in superb condition, and the clinker brick fireplace, bricks of which date back to the mid-1800's.

Thousands of dollars were spent refurbishing this home to enjoy modern conveniences, such as a remodeled kitchen, remodeled bathrooms (one with a claw foot tub), two 3-ton central air conditioning units, and a custom hand-made 273-picket fence that received recognition of craftsmanship by the Old Riverside Foundation!

Quality from the past...

- 5 bdrms, 3.5 bthrms (1 bed, 1 bath downstairs)
- Approximately 3300 square feet
- Central air/heat plus a whole-house fan
- Crown molding, wainscoting and plate rails
- \$1200 Bradbury & Bradbury wallpaper
- Large family room with clinker brick fireplace
- Large formal dining room with original hutch
- Master suite w/retreat, walk-in closet & balcony
- Rare hand-rolled dentist glass (circa 1911-1922)
- Indoor laundry room (stackable unit stays)
- Large unfinished basement (storage potential)
- Every steel post on picket fence is set in concrete
- 2-car garage with automatic garage door opener
- Home was nominated for Neighborhood Pride
- Home would be ideal as a bed-and-breakfast!



Tara & April Glatzel
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Referral Reward Program ...

We want to thank those of you who have participated in our Client Referral program! Marketing for new clients costs us tons of time, money and energy. Like any company, we need new clients to stay in business. Over the years we've found that looking for new clients takes away from the time we would rather be spending focusing on your goals, explaining your options, and providing the excellent service you expect.....and *deserve!*

If you refer your friends and relatives to us, everyone benefits. We can serve you better. We send you a nice gift. And we assure you that we'll take the very best care of anyone you refer to us.

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