

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

OCTOBER 2004

Keep Halloween Candy Safe

Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it's also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible "tricks" in that bag of treats. Here's how to help your children have a fun and safe Halloween:



- Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so you can carefully inspect it for tampering. Children should not snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go – don't send them out on an empty stomach.
- Tell children not to accept – and especially not to eat – anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Throw away candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.).
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, hard candies or small toys.

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Historical October Days

- 1886 - Unveiling of "The Statue of Liberty"
- 1903 - The first World Series opened in Boston
- 1917 - Pulitzer Prize was established
- 1927 - First talking motion picture "The Jazz Singer" opened in New York City
- 1929 - Black Tuesday (October 29th). Blackest day in history of the stock market, with 16 million shares dumped, contributing to the Great Depression.
- 1933 - Genius Albert Einstein arrived in the U.S.
- 1950 - The comic strip "Peanuts" was first published
- 1926 - A.A. Milne's honey-loving bear, Winnie-the-Pooh was published.
- 1967 - Thurgood Marshall was sworn in as the first African-American justice on the U.S. Supreme Court
- 1971 - Walt Disney World in Florida opened

What do you know about BATS?

Bats may be the most misunderstood animals in the United States, although as consumers of enormous numbers of insects, they rank among the most beneficial. Almost all United States bats, and 70 percent of the bat species worldwide, feed almost exclusively on insects and are thus extremely beneficial. In fact, bats are the only major predators of night-flying insects. One bat can eat between 600 and 1,000 mosquitoes and other insect pests in just one hour.

While most United States bat species are insectivorous, bats in other parts of the world feed on a variety of items in addition to insects. Many species feed primarily on fruit, while several types feed on nectar and pollen. Fruit bats perform an extremely important function as seed dispersers. Nectar eating bats, including the federally-listed endangered lesser long-nosed and greater Mexican long-nosed bats, are important pollinators. Many plant species depend almost entirely on bats for pollination.



Less than half of 1% of bats carry the rabies virus. In addition, rabid bats are seldom aggressive. Fewer than 40 people in the United States are known to have contracted rabies from bats during the past 40 years. Far more people are killed by dog attacks, bee stings, power mowers, or lightning than rabies from bats. However, rabies is a dangerous disease so you should avoid direct contact with bats as well as other wild animals. The Center for Disease Control, USFWS, and Bat Conservation International have cooperatively developed a public health guide: *Bats and Rabies*.

Although bats may occasionally fly very close to someone's face while catching insects, they do not get stuck in people's hair, as popularly thought. That's because the bats ability to echolocate is so acute that it can avoid obstacles no wider than a piece of thread.



By far the most famous bats are the vampire bats. These amazing creatures are found in Mexico, Central America and South America. Vampire bats feed on the blood of warm-blooded animals such as birds, horses and cattle. Vampire bats do not suck blood. The bats obtain blood by making a small cut in the skin of a sleeping animal with their razor-sharp teeth and then lap up the blood as it flows from the wound. There is an anticoagulant in the bat's saliva that helps to prevent the animal's blood from clotting until the bat has finished its meal. The bat's saliva also contains an anesthetic that reduces the likelihood of the animal feeling the prick. Each bat requires only about two tablespoons of blood every day, so the loss of blood to a prey animal is small and rarely causes any harm.

Bats may resemble rodents in many ways, but they are not rodents. In fact, there is recent evidence that bats may be more closely related to primates (which include humans) than to rodents.

Although they can't see color, bats can see better than we do at night. And, many bats can also “see” in the dark by using echolocation. They send out sound waves using their mouth or nose. When the sound hits an object, an echo comes back. The bat can identify an object by the sound of the echo. They can even tell the size, shape and texture of a tiny insect from its echo. Most bats use echolocation to navigate in the dark and find food.

— adapted from <http://www.batconservation.org/>

Attitude Is Everything

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, gift or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past. The only thing we can do is play on the string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you – we are in charge of our attitudes.

– Charles Swindoll

Are You Too Self-Critical?

If you're too self-critical, you may be preventing your own happiness. Probably the happiest, most successful people are the ones who don't spend a lot of time trying to figure out what's wrong with them. They just accept that they have strengths and weaknesses, then focus on the strengths and forget about the weaknesses.

Most of the things people criticize themselves for are the same problems everyone has. The first step to eliminating self-criticism is to realize you're normal and that everyone has to deal with these kinds of problems. The rest of the things you criticize yourself for? You just have to understand that if you could have solved these problems, you would have. And maybe the best thing to do is to forget about them and move on.

– Adapted from energyforwomen.com

How To Take A Financial Time-Out

If you need to stabilize your finances, maybe you need to take a time-out. To take a time-out you might need to call your creditors and tell them that you intend on paying them fully in the future, but that right now you're struggling to get your finances under control, and you're wondering if they will work with you. Most creditors are happy to work with people who are truly sincere and worried about paying their debts.

Once you have that taken care of, you need to refrain from creating any more debt and avoid any large new expenses for a period of one to several months, until you regain control over your finances. What taking a time-out does is buy you time to think and come up with a plan. This will give you the opportunity to develop some financial clarity for yourself. Once you begin feeling some level of control, you can begin to heal your financial life.

– Adapted from *Money Drunk/Money Sober* by Julia Cameron and Mark Bryan

In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich.

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Take full account of the excellencies which you possess, and in gratitude remember how you would hanker after them, if you had them not.

—Marcus Aurelius

If you can't be thankful for what you receive, be thankful for what you escape.

—Unknown

A proud man is seldom a grateful man, for he never thinks he gets as much as he deserves.

—Henry Ward Beecher

Welcome New Clients!

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

Rob Stacy and Jill Willis (past and treasured clients)

Dorette Peterson (past and treasured client)

Steve and Rhonda Johnson

Kevan Sledge (referred by Alex and Celeste Idzardi)

Joe and Tamiko Ralston (referred by Carlos Monagas, Jr.)

Eric Sosa and Christopher Cunningham

Ben and Kim Ax

Bill and Traci Paynter (past & 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.

October Quiz Question

What is the approximate population of Riverside County (not the City), California?

Everyone responding by calling or e-mailing us with the correct answer will be entered into a drawing for:

A \$30 gift certificate for a store of your choice!

Drawing to be held on 11/05/04



August Quiz Answer

Question: Of all the Ancient Wonders of the World, which one still exists?

Answer: The Great Pyramid at Giza, Egypt

Source: <http://ce.eng.usf.edu/pharos/wonders/pyramid.html>

Congratulations to Frances Langston

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$30 gift certificate to a store of your choice!

See An Interesting Home?

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.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!

**It's all part of our
Free, No-obligation
Home Finder Service.**

Call Tara or April any time:
(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429

We'll fax, mail or e-mail you the information on that listing within 24 hours.

The Pet Page



Halloween can be fun and festive for people, but for pets it can also be dangerous. Here are some tips from the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association) to help you ensure that your pet has a happy and safe Halloween...

Don't leave your pet outside unattended on Halloween (or on the days preceding or following this holiday). Halloween pranks committed against pets can be vicious, and black cats are particularly at risk.

Halloween treats are for people, not pets. Candy wrappers and lollipop sticks can be hazardous if swallowed and chocolate can be poisonous for some types of pets.

Keep pumpkins out of reach of curious noses and paws. Pets may knock over a lit pumpkin and cause a fire.

Despite how much fun it is for people, many pets don't enjoy getting dressed up for Halloween. Avoid costumes held in place by rubber bands, which can be uncomfortable. More importantly, rubber bands mistakenly left on a pet can quickly burrow into the animal's skin and cause injury. If you do dress your pet, be sure that its costume doesn't interfere with the pet's ability to breathe, see, hear, move, or bark.

Consider keeping your pet in a separate room, away from the door, when trick-or-treaters arrive. Strange people in even stranger clothes can frighten some pets.

When you do answer the door for visitors, make sure that your pet doesn't suddenly head for the great outdoors. In case your pet does escape, make sure that it is wearing proper identification. Pets with identification are much more likely to be returned to their owners.

Keep pets on a shorter-than-normal leash if you plan on walking outside on Halloween. Again, scary and weird-looking trick-or-treaters could provoke aggression in even the nicest pet.

For more information and tips about holiday safety for pets, call or visit your family veterinarian. Remember, your veterinarian is your very best source for advice on keeping your pet safe, healthy, and happy!

—Adapted from <http://www.avma.org/careforanimals/pawsforpets/default.asp>



REMEMBER....

Spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats.

"The Sister Team" is willing and able to confidentially help those who are unable 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!

--Tara and April

ATTENTION “CHIT CHAT” READERS:

Please make note that “The Sister Team” has NEW cell phone numbers. With the area code change, we wanted to update our numbers so our local clients would avoid dialing a different area code. We apologize for any inconvenience!

Tara: 951-205-4428 April: 951-205-4429

For The Technically Challenged

If you’re feeling technically challenged, hopefully you’ll find some comfort – and humor – in these stories:

- ☞ Compaq is considering changing the command “Press Any Key” to “Press Return Key” because of the flood of calls asking where the “Any” key is.
- ☞ AST Computer technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. The dust cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.
- ☞ A Dell customer called to say he couldn’t get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the “Send” key.
- ☞ A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician the computer had said it “couldn’t find the printer.” The user tried turning the computer screen to face the printer, but his computer still couldn’t “see” the printer.
- ☞ An exasperated caller to Dell Tech Support couldn’t get her new computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response was, “I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happened.” The “foot pedal” turned out to be the computer’s mouse.
- ☞ A Compaq customer called tech support to say her brand-new computer wouldn’t work. She said she’d unpacked the unit, plugged it in and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power button, she asked, “What power button?”



PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK

**AFFORDABLE
“WOOD STREET” BUNGALOW**



\$309,900

Great price for 3 bdrms, 2 baths, 1132 sq ft, central air/heat, new interior/exterior paint, remodeled kitchen, private master bath, new sprinklers, large pool-size yard.

**GORGEOUS 1940's
“WOOD STREET” HOME**



\$479,900

4-5 bdrms, 2.5 baths, 2400 sq ft, drop-dead gorgeous remodeled kitchen, 400 sq ft loft could be 2 rooms—currently being used as master, formal dining, 2-car garage & spa.

**CHARMING HOME IN
“WOOD STREET” NEIGHBORHOOD**



\$369,900

Built in 1939, this home features almost 1600 sq ft with 3 bdrms, 2 baths plus a 325 sq ft basement! Fireplace, formal dining room with built-in hutch, and 2-car garage.

**PROMINENT AREA OF
DOWNTOWN RIVERSIDE**



\$394,900

3 bdrms, 2 baths, 1700 sq ft “tudor” style with hardwood floors, living room, family room, eat-in kitchen plus formal dining, indoor laundry, 2-car garage & large yard.



Tara and April Glatzel
"The Sister Team"

Your Real Estate Consultants For Life!
(951) 205-4428 or (951) 205-4429





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Chit Chat

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.

If you want any friends, coworkers, relatives or business acquaintances to receive a free subscription to this newsletter, please contact us and we'll put them on the mailing list immediately.

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