

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JULY 2005

Independence Day: America's Birthday

Summertime: the smell of barbecue, the roar of holiday crowds at events throughout the land, family, picnics and the beach. It's America's annual birthday party and everyone is invited.

History of Independence Day

Schoolchildren in America learn the basic history of the events surrounding the Fourth of July, but the details of this monumental occasion in American history somehow fall through the cracks.

Although July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution, the actual series of events show that the process took far longer than a single day. The original resolution was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776 and called for the Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. Three days later a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson was appointed to prepare an appropriate writing for the occasion. The document that we know as the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress on July 4th although the resolution that led to the writing of the Declaration was actually approved two days earlier. All of this had occurred with some of the delegates to the Congress not even present; New York, for example, did not even vote on the resolution until July 9th.



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Even more interesting is the fact that not a single signature was appended to the Declaration on July 4th. While most of the fifty-six names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, did not actually sign the Declaration until 1781.

Nevertheless, July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event of the United States establishing itself as a nation. The feeling about the sanctity of America's Independence day was best expressed in a quotation from the Virginia Gazette on July 18th, 1777:

“Thus may the 4th of July, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and Amen.”

Happy 229th Birthday, America!

-- Tara and April

Proper Display of the American Flag

There is a right way and a wrong way to display the flag. The American flag should be held in the highest of regards. It represents our nation and the many people who gave their lives for our country and our flag. Here are the basics on displaying the American flag:

- The flag is normally flown from sunrise to sunset.
- In the morning, raise the flag briskly. At sunset, lower it slowly. Always, raise and lower it ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.
- The flag should not be flown in the rain or inclement weather.
- After a tragedy or death, the flag is flown at half staff for 30 days. It's called "half staff" on land, and "half mast" on a ship.
- When flown vertically on a pole, the stars and blue field, or "union", is at the top and at the end of the pole (away from your house).
- The American flag is always flown at the top of the pole. Your state flag and other flags fly below the American flag.
- The union is always on top. When displayed in print or in the window(s) of your home, the stars and blue field are always on the left.
- Fold your flag when storing. Don't just stuff it in a drawer or box.

When your flag is old and has seen better days, it is time for retirement. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw them in the trash. Your local Boy Scout group knows the proper ceremony for burning a retired flag. If you have an old flag, give it to them. And, attend the ceremony.



Presidents of the United States

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. George Washington, 1789-1797 | 16. Abraham Lincoln, 1861-1865 | 31. Herbert Clark Hoover, 1929-1933 |
| 2. John Adams, 1797-1801 | 17. Andrew Johnson, 1865-1869 | 32. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 1933-1945 |
| 3. Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809 | 18. Ulysses Simpson Grant, 1869-1877 | 33. Harry S. Truman, 1945-1953 |
| 4. James Madison, 1809-1817 | 19. Rutherford Birchard Hayes, 1877-1881 | 34. Dwight David Eisenhower 1953-1961 |
| 5. James Monroe, 1817-1825 | 20. James Abram Garfield, 1881 | 35. John Fitzgerald Kennedy, 1961-1963 |
| 6. John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829 | 21. Chester Alan Arthur, 1881-1885 | 36. Lyndon Baines Johnson, 1963-1969 |
| 7. Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837 | 22. Grover Cleveland, 1885-1889 | 37. Richard Milhous Nixon, 1969-1974 |
| 8. Martin Van Buren, 1837-1841 | 23. Benjamin Harrison, 1889-1893 | 38. Gerald Rudolph Ford, 1974-1977 |
| 9. William Henry Harrison, 1841 | 24. Grover Cleveland, 1893-1897 | 39. James Earl Carter, Jr., 1977-1981 |
| 10. John Tyler, 1841-1845 | 25. William McKinley, 1897-1901 | 40. Ronald Wilson Reagan, 1981-1989 |
| 11. James Knox Polk, 1845-1849 | 26. Theodore Roosevelt, 1901-1909 | 41. George Herbert Walker Bush, 1989-1993 |
| 12. Zachary Taylor, 1849-1850 | 27. William Howard Taft, 1909-1913 | 42. William Jefferson Clinton, 1993-2000 |
| 13. Millard Fillmore, 1850-1853 | 28. Woodrow Wilson, 1913-1921 | 43. George Walker Bush, 2001- |
| 14. Franklin Pierce, 1853-1857 | 29. Warren Gamaliel Harding, 1921-1923 | |
| 15. James Buchanan, 1857-1861 | 30. Calvin Coolidge, 1923-1929 | |

REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed and Sold by “The Sister Team”

SOLD (Jan through June 2005)

5974	Boone	\$314,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1160 sq ft	2-car garage
4456	Brentwood	\$365,000	2 bed, 1.75 bath	1409 sq ft	1-car garage
19597	Brisbane	\$360,000	3 bed, 2.5 bath	1317 sq ft	2-car garage
10675	Curtis, Loma Linda	\$330,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1569 sq ft	2-car garage
3416	Elmwood Ct	\$315,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1066 sq ft	2-car garage
3707	Elmwood Ct	\$375,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1184 sq ft	2-car garage
3969	Elmwood Ct	\$280,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1100 sq ft	1-car garage
4033	Garden Home	\$269,900	2 bed, 1 bath	825 sq ft	1-car garage
813	Lombard, Redlands	\$259,900	2 bed, 1 bath	970 sq ft	2-car garage
4001	Mennes	\$218,000	2 bed, 1 bath	700 sq ft	1-car garage
6707	Mt. Whitney	\$394,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1550 sq ft	2-car garage
3550	Ramona	\$560,000	5 bed, 2.75 bath	2798 sq ft	2-car garage
3920	Ramona	\$450,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1578 sq ft	2-car garage
4060	Ramona	\$350,000	4 bed, 3 bath	2400 sq ft	2-car garage & spa
3880	Rosewood	\$365,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1180 sq ft	1-car garage & spa
3981	Rosewood	\$332,000	2 bed, 1 bath	996 sq ft	1-car garage
4890	Serrano	\$285,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1008 sq ft	2-car garage
7161	Tiverton	\$500,000	4 bed, 2 bath	1830 sq ft	3-car garage & spa
9727	Webb	\$347,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	1-car gar & pool
6929	Yellowstone	\$355,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1550 sq ft	2-car garage

IN ESCROW

		Sold			
5122	Carlingford	prices	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage
3485	Elmwood Dr	posted in	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1850 sq ft	2-car garage
5581	Fargo	next	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1532 sq ft	2-car garage
4310	Larchwood	“Activity Report”	3 bed, 1 bath	1038 sq ft	2-car garage

AVAILABLE

3581	Beechwood	\$550,000	3 bed, 1.5 bath	2064 sq ft	2-car garage
4427	Larchwood	\$374,900	2 bed, 1 bath	900 sq ft	2-car gar & guest
9206	Limonite	\$349,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1000 sq ft	1-car garage
3564	Rosewood	\$459,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	2000 sq ft	2-car garage

Welcome New Clients!

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

Chris and Jennifer Allen (past and treasured clients)

Carrie Barlau

Scott and Donna Barlow

Christopher and Cathleen Booth

Jeremy and Erin Hansen

Megan Hey

Stela and Sam Kamal (referred by Chris Schubert)

Marcia McVey and Virgil Burns

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.

July Quiz Question

Who was Nostradamus?

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 7/24/05



February Quiz Answer

Question: What is the only bird with two toes?

Answer: The Ostrich.

Congratulations to
Cecilia Dutton

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

Dog Quotes

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue. -Anonymous

Don't accept your dog's admiration as conclusive evidence that you are wonderful. -Ann Landers

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went. -Will Rogers

I wonder if other dogs think poodles are members of a weird religious cult. -Rita Rudner

If your dog is fat, you're not getting enough exercise. -Unknown

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. -Roger Caras

My goal in life is to be as good a person as my dog already think I am. -Anonymous

Anybody who doesn't know what soap tastes like never washed a dog. -Franklin P. Jones

There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face. -Ben Williams

Dogs love their friends and bite their enemies, quite unlike people, who are incapable of pure love and always have to mix love and hate. -Sigmund Freud

If you think dogs can't count, try putting three dog biscuits in your pocket and then giving Fido only two of them. -Phil Pastoret

Ever consider what our dogs must think of us? I mean, here we come back from the store with the most amazing haul — chicken, pork, steak. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth! -Anne Tyler

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get accustomed to this idea. -Robert A. Heinlein

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man. -Mark Twain



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 dogs and cats!

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

Fireworks and Dogs and Cats

Most people love fireworks, but for countless animals they will be terrifying, and there will be accidents and even deaths as a result.

Keep your pets indoors and possibly even in a crate. Some dogs have been known to jump through windows to escape the frightening sounds. Think about turning on a radio or TV to provide a distracting noise. If you have a nervous or a very old pet, talk to your veterinarian about a light sedative.

Make sure your pets have name tags on their collars to ensure a safe return just in case they do escape even after your precautions.

What everyone NEEDS to know about painting!

Buy a gallon of paint, open it, stir it, dip a brush in it, then slap the brush to the wall and start stroking. Sounds easy. And it *can* be easy if you aren't concerned with the *durability, protection, quality*, and the over-all *beauty* of a paint job.

Forward by April Glatzel:

Before I was aware of the different *types* of painting jobs, I was “taken to the cleaners” by a local painter who came highly referred! I'm not blaming the person who referred him, but I'm mad at the painter for not supplying me with all the information I needed to make an educated decision.

My room looked great when the painter finished; however, I have since learned that the closet doors and shutters, that were previously painted with an oil-based paint, had not been primed before this most recent paint job. Thus, the paint peels off if barely coaxed.

I chose the paint for the walls because it was “pretty” but had I known it would not be forgiving if I put the smallest piece of tape on the wall, or put a dirty handprint on the wall, I certainly would have chosen a different “brand” of paint, regardless of the cost. Understandably, every homeowner has a budget, and I think we all would at least like to be educated on what our budget will buy for us.

Buyer Beware: you don't always get what you pay for. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be afraid to get references and view any prior work from the painter.

The following information is from the very first painter who took the time to recently educate me on the hows, whys, and expenses of painting.

My name is Ivan Grablev with Ivan's Painting & Design, I live in the “Wood Street” neighborhood, and I am happy to be of service to you. Our excellent quality and affordable rates are well-known in the “Wood Streets” already and I hope to offer some helpful information before you choose a painter.

Taking care of your most valuable possession — your home — is very important, and most of the time, expensive. The right painting job makes your house look nice, and protects it from the aggressive environment, such as UV rays, dry and hot summer weather, moisture, and dry rot. For this reason, I would like to give you a few tips about painting so you will have knowledge when it comes to making choices.

Most contractors I know are great professionals and honest people; otherwise, we wouldn't have so many beautiful homes in the neighborhood. However, they don't always describe in detail the consumers' choices. My experience as a contractor is that the customer very often wants the least expensive job — even without any preparation — just paint over the old paint, or bare wood. However, there are some rules to keep in mind. All bare wood, new drywall, plaster patches, and hole repair fillers need to be primed before painting.

Most acrylic paint now comes with warranties that last for years, but even the best quality acrylic paint will peel off the next day if someone has painted over a glossy oil-based paint. Preparation is most important. How can you recognize if you have oil or acrylic paint on your cabinets, doors or trim? Get a chip of the paint, and try to bend it — if the top coat is flexible, you have acrylic paint, so all it needs is a light sanding and/or TSP washing, then you can paint. If the chip of paint breaks and looks fragile, you have oil-based paint. Now you will have to sand it, TSP wash it, prime it, then paint it. Most primers hold very well on a glossy surface, but nothing holds on a greasy one, so at least make sure that all surfaces are grease-free before priming and painting.

We hope to have answered some questions, and are always available to answer more questions about your painting projects. For a free estimate, please call Ivan's Painting & Design seven days a week at (951) 276-0313.

PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK

SUPERB INVESTMENT PROPERTY
TWO-ON-A-LOT! LIVE IN ONE AND RENT OUT THE OTHER!



\$374,900



The front house is 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, plus a large service porch which could be used as an office, work-out area, or play room for the kids. Approximately 900 square feet includes new carpet (over hardwood floors), new paint, new light fixtures, new pedestal sink, new toilet, and a classic clawfoot tub. Remodeled kitchen, indoor laundry and a 2-car garage. The back house is approximately 450 square feet with a bedroom, living room, kitchen and private fenced back yard with shed.



3550 Ramona
 Sold for \$560,000

3981 Rosewood
 Sold for \$332,000



3485 Elmwood Dr
 Sold for \$425,000

3707 Elmwood Ct
 Sold for \$375,000



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Happy
Independence
Day!



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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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