

# Chit Chat

News for Home and Living JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2008

## What A Gift!

How often do you say, "If only I had more time..."? Well, in February, you do!

2008 is a Leap Year, and that means 29 days in February instead of 28. If you're over 12 you've been through enough Leap Years not to give them much thought, but do you know why Leap Years are a part of our lives?

Seasons and astronomical events do not repeat at an exact number of full days, so a calendar which has the same number of days in each year would over time drift with respect to the event it was supposed to track. By occasionally inserting (or intercalating) an additional day or month into the year, the drift can be corrected. A year which is not a leap year is called a common year. A person born on February 29 may be called a "leapling". In common years they usually celebrate their birthdays on February 29 or March 1.



Why not spend a few minutes using this gift of extra time? For instance...

**Spend time with a friend or family member you haven't see for awhile.** Someone you said "I'll be in touch" to, but somehow, just haven't.

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**It's All Good!**

**Have a Leap Day Party.** February 29 falls on a Friday this year — what a great way to start your weekend!

**Turn off your cell phone and take a nap.** When was the last time you did this?

**Spend a few hours volunteering.** You'll feel so good, you just might want to do it again. Check with a retirement home, a local animal shelter, or an elderly neighbor to see what you can do to help.

**Rent a video, read a book, get a massage.** Take time to do whatever you wish that you "only had more time" to do.

*Make the most of this gift of extra time — the next Leap Year isn't until 2012!*

— Tara and April

## On Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is February 14, and if romantic music is part of your plans, here is a Top 12 list of love songs spanning 80 years and the many moods of love:

- "Someone To Watch Over Me" — Rosemary Clooney
- "Night and Day" — Fred Astaire
- "Unchained Melody" — Righteous Brothers
- "First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" — Roberta Flack
- "Cherish" — The Association
- "Can't Help Falling In Love With You" — Elvis Presley
- "Your Song" — Elton John
- "I Will Always Love You" — Dolly Parton
- "In Your Eyes" — Peter Gabriel
- "Just The Way You Are" — Billy Joel
- "We've Only Just Begun" — The Carpenters
- "Come Away With Me" — Nora Jones



## A Family That Eats Together...

In these busy times, when something has to give, it's often the family mealtime. But family meals are a time of strengthening family ties, keeping track of your children's lives, and can lead to better physical and mental health for your children. Shared meals can offer:



**Better communication** — an opportunity to update each other on what's going on with school, jobs and friends.

**Stronger family bond** — the time together promotes a feeling of being needed and belonging.

**Shared learning** — from table manners and social skills to family values and basic cooking skills.

**Improved nutrition at reduced cost** — when families eat together, the meals tend to be more nutritious; studies show

that those who ate meals with families as adolescents were more likely to eat fruit, dark green and orange vegetables, and drink fewer soft drinks as young adults. Shopping for family-sized meals saves money too.

Here are some tips for making family mealtime a pleasant and fun experience:

- ◆ Make family meals a priority.
- ◆ Aim for four or more meals a week.
- ◆ Be flexible about when and where you eat — at home, in a restaurant, in a park, near the playing field.
- ◆ Ask for family members' menu suggestions, then shop for food, cook, and clean up together.
- ◆ Respect each individual's right to decide how much to eat.
- ◆ Take telephone calls later, keep the TV turned off, keep a sense of humor and laugh a lot!

# What is Love?

Love is temporary madness. It erupts like an earthquake and then subsides. And when it subsides you have to make a decision. You have to work out whether your roots have become so entwined together that it is inconceivable that you should ever part. Because this is what love is. Love is not breathlessness, it is not excitement, it is not the promulgation of promises of eternal passion; that is just “being in love”, which any of us can convince ourselves we are.



Love itself is what is left over when “being in love” has burned away, and this is both an art and a fortunate accident. Your mother and I had it; we had roots that grew towards each other underground, and when all the pretty blossoms had fallen from our branches, we found that we were one tree and not two.

—From the movie *Captain Corelli’s Mandolin*

“An idea that is developed and put into action is more important than an idea that exists only as an idea.”  
—Buddha

## These Careers Are Hot

Want to have your pick of employers? Tired of your current job and want to make a strategic change? Here are some careers that could fill your life with signing bonuses and competitive salaries, according to *Top Jobs Where Employers Come Looking For You* on Yahoo! Education:

**Computer software engineer.** You’ll need a bachelor’s degree to enter this field, one of the fastest growing.

**Paralegal.** You’ll need a bachelor’s degree, with an associate’s in paralegal studies or specialized certificate.

**Accountant.** You’ll need a bachelor’s degree, followed by certification, gained by passing the Certified Public Accountant exam.

**Occupational therapist.** You’ll need a master’s, but you won’t have trouble finding a job.

**Post-secondary teachers.** Get a teaching degree in health, business or computer science. Pursue a master’s in education and teach at a college or university.

*Do you want to find local businesses that give outstanding customer service?*

*Request a free copy of our Service Directory including*

***PAINTERS,  
PLUMBERS,  
GARDENERS,  
TREE TRIMMERS, etc.***

*All of the businesses listed have a proven track record for providing the outstanding customer service you deserve!*

## Welcome New Clients!

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

**Jim and Sally Swor**

**Jerry Swor**

**Eric Sosa and Christopher Cunningham (past and treasured clients)**

**Rob and Jill van Daalen**

**Toby and Cathy Holmes**

*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.*

## Jan/Feb Quiz Question

**Which human organ produces insulin?**

*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 2/29/08*



## Nov/Dec Quiz Answer

**Question:** What is the name of the world's tallest bridge?

**Answer:** The Millau Viaduct in southern France.

source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millau\\_Viaduct](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millau_Viaduct)

(Turn to page 7 to read more about the Millau Viaduct)

### **Congratulations to Patrick O'Hurley**

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

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

# The Pet Page

## Neighborhood Watch (for Animals)

In 1972, amid concerns about the growing U.S. crime rate, Americans latched onto a novel way to deal with the 8.2 million burglaries, arsons, assaults and other reported crimes that year (up from 6.9 million cases just five years earlier). Across the nation, friends and neighbors formed Neighborhood Crime Watches in conjunction with their local authorities.



More than 30 years later, the results speak for themselves. In a January 1998 article in *Sheriff* magazine, published by the National Sheriffs' Association, the director of crime prevention noted: "From its inception, the growth and impact of Neighborhood Watch has exceeded all expectations. It is now one of the most widely-known crime prevention programs in history, reaching thousands of people in urban, suburban, and rural areas."

In the very next paragraph, the article mentioned that the "longevity of Neighborhood Watch is attributed to the fact that the program is flexible to suit the needs of each community, and can be adapted to any environment: e.g., Marina Watch, Campus Watch, etc.)."



The Humane Society of the United States would like to suggest that the Neighborhood Crime Watch exhibit even more flexibility — to incorporate animals. After all, pets and wildlife need care and protection too, and a Neighborhood Watch for Animals can make a community safer for everyone. If your neighborhood already has a Watch program, you can share these ideas with other participants. Or start a Neighborhood Watch for Animals of your own.

### Know Your Neighborhood's Pets

In a perfect world, no pets would be out on their own, roaming the neighborhood. But unfortunately, some dogs and cats escape or are allowed to roam. Some have regular routes and know their way home; others get lost and need help to return to their families.

Encourage pet owners to keep collars and identification tags on their pets. If you find a collar in your yard, call the number so the collar can be returned to the pet's owner.

Consider creating a neighborhood roster of pets and pet owners to use in emergencies. Include pets' names, basic descriptions and/or photographs, and contact information.

### Pay Attention to Abuse and Abandonment

A dog left chained outside without food or water, a sick or injured animal whose condition goes untreated. Pets left behind when their owners move. A neighborhood child who throws rocks at squirrels. Be observant. Do you see an overt act of cruelty? Don't turn your back. Call local animal services or police immediately. Or call "The Sister Team" if there are feral cats — we'll help trap and spay/neuter and try to find homes if they're able to be placed.

### Help the Elderly

Companion animals can play important roles in the lives of elderly people; but the animals can also be a hardship to those who have trouble providing pet care. Offer to assist by walking dogs, cleaning litter boxes, or taking pets to the vet.



## 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

**LOST  
AND  
FOUND**

*If you've lost, or found, any type of creature (cat, dog, bird, tortoise), please contact "The Sister Team" so that we may put its photo and/or description in this newsletter, so a happy reunion can be arranged with the proper owner!!*

## REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

### Listed AND Sold by “The Sister Team”

#### SOLD

4490	Larchwood	\$300,000	4 bed, 1.5 bath	1300 sq ft	carport and pool/spa
3078	Lime	\$295,000	2 bed, 1 bath	1136 sq ft	2-car garage & pool
3844	Oakwood	\$275,000	4 bed, 1.75 bath	1700 sq ft	2-car garage
3494	Ramona	\$385,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa
4200	Ramona	\$275,000	2 bed, 1 bath	960 sq ft	1-car garage
3944	Rosewood	\$329,900	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage & workshop
4374	Rosewood	\$315,000	3 bed, 1 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage & workshop

#### IN ESCROW

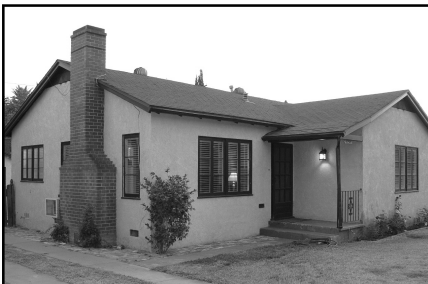
3745	Beechwood	Sold prices posted in next “Activity Report”	3 bed, 1 bath	1200 sq ft	1-car garage & guest
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#### AVAILABLE

4050	Adams (Historical Mansion)	\$639,500	3 bed, 3 bath	2500 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa
1151	Coronet	\$550,000	3 bed, 3 bath	2353 sq ft	3-car garage (acre w/view)
3475	Elmwood Drive (Duplex)	\$595,000	4 bed, 2 bath	3100 sq ft	2-car garage
260	Fox Mills	\$410,000	4 bed, 2.5 bath	1680 sq ft	2-car garage
4210	Highland	\$339,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1300 sq ft	2-car garage
4065	Larchwood	\$339,900	3 bed, 1 bath	1235 sq ft	2-car garage & workshop
4202	Linwood	\$365,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1500 sq ft	2-car garage
6707	Mt. Whitney	\$369,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1600 sq ft	2-car garage & spa
4258	Oakwood	\$299,900	2 bed, 1 bath	1011 sq ft	2-car garage & guest
3945	Rosewood	\$345,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1455 sq ft	2-car garage

*ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by “The Sister Team.”  
If you would like information on other properties in your neighborhood, please contact us at (951) 205-4429.*

*We **LIVE** in the neighborhood, we **WORK** in the neighborhood,  
we **KNOW** the neighborhood, we **SELL** the neighborhood!!!*



**\$299,900** 2 bd/1 bth plus guest quarters in back with bathroom and fireplace! Home interior is absolutely gorgeous with hardwood floors! Nice



**\$345,000** 3 bd/2 bth 1455 sq ft, complete home makeover with brand new kitchen, double pane windows, central air/heat, newer roof, etc!!



**\$595,000** 4 bd/2 bth 3100 sq ft original Spanish Mediterranean Duplex (income property) with central air/heat, hardwood floors, 2-car garage!

## The World's Tallest Bridge

The Millau Viaduct (French: le Viaduc de Millau) is a large cable-stayed road-bridge that spans the valley of the River Tarn near Millau in southern France. Designed by Lord Foster of Foster and Partners, and bridge engineer Michael Virlogeux, it is the tallest vehicular bridge in the world, with one mast's summit at 1,125 feet — slightly taller than the Eiffel Tower and only 125 feet shorter than the Empire State Building.



Construction began on October 10, 2001 and the viaduct was inaugurated by President Chirac on December 14, 2004 and opened to traffic two days later, several weeks ahead of the revised schedule. The construction of the bridge was depicted in an episode of the National Geographic Channel “Mega Structures” series.

The project required about 19,000 metric tons of steel for the reinforced concrete, and 5,000 metric tons of pre-stressed steel for the cables and shrouds. The builder claims that the bridge's lifetime will be at least 120 years.

## It's All Good!

Have you heard the story about the king in Africa who had a close friend that he grew up with? The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, “This is good!”

One day the king and his friend were out on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. The friend had apparently done something wrong in preparing one of the guns, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, “This is good!” To which the king replied, “No, this is NOT good!” and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in an area that he should have known to stay clear of. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village, where they tied his hands and feet, stacked some wood, and bound him to a stake. As they came near to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing his thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole, so they untied the king and sent him on his way.



As the king returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for the treatment of his friend and went immediately to the jail. “You were right” he said to his friend, “It was good that my thumb was blown off, and I am so very sorry for sending you to jail for so long.” “No,” his friend replied, “this is good!”

“What do you mean, ‘this is good’? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?” “Had I not been in jail, I would have been with you!”

— Author unknown



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!



Tara and April Glatzel  
"The Sister Team"  
Your Real Estate Consultants For Life!  
390 N. McKinley St., Ste. 106  
Corona, CA 92879  
E-mail: aprilglatzel@remax.net  
Website: www.woodstreethomes.com  
Tara: (951) 205-4428 April: (951) 205-4429

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**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.

It is our desire to build a business based on strong and lasting relationships.