

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

OCTOBER 2009

The Grinch Who Stole Halloween

Everyone in Boo-ville liked Halloween a lot...
But the Grinch in the cave, certainly did NOT!
The Grinch hated Halloween! The whole Halloween season!
Now, please don't ask why. No one quite knows the reason.
It could be his childhood just didn't go right.
It could be his neighbor's candy generosity was too tight.
But I think that the most likely reason of all,
May have been that his Halloween spirit was two sizes too small.

Staring down his window with a sour, Grinchy frown,
At the warm lighted pumpkins below in their town.
For he knew every Boo down in Boo-ville below,
Were finishing costumes, getting ready to go.

He slunk to their iceboxes and drank while they read,
And made himself a sandwich with their Halloween bread!
He cleaned out the iceboxes as sure as you're born,
The Grinch even stole their last piece of candy corn!



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Then he walked to the pumpkins with obvious glee,
"And NOW!" he grinned, "Halloween belongs to me!"
He grabbed up the gourds with no loss of love,
When he heard a small sound like the coo of a dove.
He turned around fast, and he saw a small Boo,
Little Cindy-Lou Boo, who was not more than two.

He later stared down at Boo-ville, the tall and the small,
Were all trick-or-treating and having a ball!
He hadn't stopped Halloween from coming. It came!
Somehow or other, it came just the same!

They saw past his deeds and ignored all his fright,
He's still hearing fun-loving screams in the night!
Maybe Halloween, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Halloween... perhaps means a bit more!

And what happened then? Well, in Boo-ville they write,
The Grinch's Halloween spirit grew three sizes that night!

—Adapted by Steve Chavez

Daylight Saving Time Can Save Lives

Twenty years ago, the people from Energizer Batteries and the nation’s firefighters came up with an idea that likely has saved thousands of homes and perhaps as many lives.

The idea connected two unrelated activities: changing clocks for Daylight Saving Time and changing the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. It’s a sad fact that approximately 80 percent of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Don’t forget to turn your clocks BACK one hour at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1st this year!



“Lateral Thinking” Brain Boosters

1. A sundial is said to be the timepiece with the fewest moving parts. What timepiece has the most moving parts?
2. How can you throw a ball as hard as you can and have it come back to you, even if it doesn’t hit anything, there is nothing attached to it, and no one else catches or throws it?
3. A girl who was just learning to drive went down a one-way street in the wrong direction, but did not break the law. How come?

Answers:

1. An hourglass -- it's filled with many grains of sand or other granular material.
2. Throw the ball straight up in the air.
3. She was walking.

INDEPENDENCE DAY—2009

For the twelfth consecutive year, we (and some of our dearest friends -- see photo) set out at 7:00 a.m. and personally hand-delivered 1700 American flags to the “Wood Streets” neighborhood on the morning of July 4th, our wonderful country's Independence Day! We hope you enjoyed the festive flags and look forward to our patriotic gesture again next year.

- - Tara & April



Left to right: Teri, Ryan, Heidi, Dorette, Gregg, April, Debbie, Ken, Ruth, Brooklynn, Tara, Eddie, Bethany

October: National Breast Cancer Prevention Month

According to a report issued by the American Cancer Society, breast cancer death rates in the United States continue to decline by more than 2% per year. This and other breast cancer statistics were published in Breast Cancer Facts & Figures 2009-2010.

Breast cancer mortality rates began to decline in the U.S. in 1990, and the most recent statistics suggest that this decline is continuing. Nevertheless, an estimated 40,170 women will die of breast cancer in 2009, making breast cancer the second leading cause of cancer death (after lung cancer) in U.S. women. Furthermore, although declines in mortality have been observed in African-American, Hispanic and White women, African-American women continue to have higher rates of death from breast cancer than White women.

Other breast cancer statistics that were published in the report include the following:

- An estimated 192,370 U.S. women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009. This makes breast cancer the most commonly diagnosed cancer (other than skin cancer) in U.S. women.
- The median age at breast cancer diagnosis in the United States was 61 years. This means that half the women diagnosed with breast cancer are under the age of 61.
- An estimated 2.5 million women living in the United States have a history of breast cancer.
- A sharp drop in new diagnoses of breast cancer occurred between 2002 and 2003. This is likely to be due at least in part to a reduction in use of postmenopausal hormones.

The declines in breast cancer mortality are thought to be due to improvements in treatment as well as early detection. For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American Cancer Society recommends annual screening mammography beginning at age 40. Women at high risk of breast cancer may need to begin screening at a younger age and may be screened with both mammography and breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

The first part of healthy living involves the energy that you release from your body. Physical activity not only burns energy (calories), but can also help lower the risk of some types of cancer. Here is all it takes to get started:

- Build physical activity into your daily routine — even a brisk walk for 30 minutes a day.
- If you have gained weight, weight loss may lower your risk of breast cancer.
- Eat fruits and vegetables. Strive to eat at least five servings per day.
- Take a daily multivitamin with folate.
- Get plenty of calcium. Your body needs at least 1000 mg each day. Get it from non-fat milk or yogurt, spinach, kale, or calcium tablets.
- Consume less than one alcoholic drink per day.
- Do not smoke.
- Keep a healthy attitude; maintain emotional health.
- Know your risk for breast cancer, get screened, give yourself monthly self-exams, and make healthy lifestyle choices.



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!

Edwin and Oma Horne
Sharon Tyler
Manuel Carrasco and Carol Ann Brennan
Cindy Kelsick and Gina Alarid
Carel and Sharon Breytenbach (past and treasured clients)
Burleigh and Joan Quesinberry (referred by past and treasured clients, Dale and Jackie Smith)
Amy Hansen (referred by past and treasured clients, Jeremy and Erin Hansen, and Jill Hansen)

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 did Hyman Lipman do in 1858 that made life easier for students?

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 10/31/09

May Quiz Answer

Question: If we're discussing your terminal, lanugo and vallus, what are we talking about?

Answer: Types of hair!

Lanugo is very fine, long, non-pigmented hair found on the unborn. Vallus covers the body surface after birth and is fine, soft, velvety and non-pigmented. The third type of hair is terminal hair, which is long, coarse and pigmented.

Congratulations to Heather Mokes

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive a \$25 VISA gift card!

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

The Pet Page

It's that time of year again..... coyotes are out and about!



In our August 2005 issue of The Chit Chat, we wrote about the numerous coyote encounters in the “Wood Streets” neighborhood, which really isn’t too unusual, since coyotes are found throughout most of California. Due to the “Wood Streets” proximity to the Santa Ana river, recent sightings in this neighborhood are quite common, and you’ll notice more missing pet posters popping up on telephone poles this time of year. From May through October, when adult coyotes are caring for young, they can be aggressive, and this is the time when domestic animals are especially vulnerable to attack.



A coyote’s primary diet is made up of small rodents; however, they are opportunistic and will consume a vast array of foods including birds, fruit and vegetables, human garbage and compost, outdoor pet food, and small free-roaming pets. The best **prevention** is to **keep pets indoors** or **within a fenced yard**, on a **tight leash while walking**, and **do NOT feed strays** in the **front of your home**. This is another reason why it is important to spay or neuter outdoor cats, (a cause “The Sister Team” wholeheartedly supports) in order to prevent too many roaming cats that unintentionally attract coyotes into the neighborhood. Once the coyote has a meal or two, they will continue to return for future meals.

Unless habituated to humans, coyotes are generally shy and wary, and present a minimal risk to humans. Coyote attacks on people are extremely rare. There has only been one human death attributed to coyote predation in the United States. This occurred in California in the 1970s when a coyote that had been deliberately habituated to human handouts preyed upon his human feeder’s three-year-old child. In comparison, over 300 people have been killed by domestic dogs in the U.S. between 1979 and the late 1990s.



The coyote is a native member of the dog family closely resembling a medium-sized German shepherd except that it has an elongated snout, large erect ears, a bushy black-tipped tail, which is carried down as it runs, and they are tan-brown in color with streaks of gray. Most adults weigh between 20 to 45 pounds on average, and can live for 14-16 years. In California, coyotes breed mainly during January through March, with a gestation period of about 60-63 days. Coyotes produce one litter per year, averaging 5-6 “pups.” In the rare event that a coyote attacks you or someone near you, yell at the coyote to make it back off. Don’t run away, since a coyote can outrun you — unless you can run faster than 30 mph!



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

BUYERS of Real Estate:

Now is the time to buy! Are you aware how low prices and interest rates are? It's a great time to think about buying your first home (and/or investment property) — something that was a distant dream not too long ago.

Some great reasons to work with "The Sister Team":

- ◆ **No fees!** As a buyer, it costs you nothing to work with us. As a seller, fees are negotiable.
- ◆ We can show you ANY home on the market.
- ◆ Hire us for our 23 years' experience and continuing education. Our licenses have remained current and in good-standing since day one.
- ◆ We will guide you through the process of multi-page contracts, disclosures, and negotiations!
- ◆ We're a team, so you have more than one Realtor® working for you at any given time.
- ◆ We'll help you get qualified for a loan at no cost or obligation.
- ◆ By owning real estate, you will build equity for future investments and education.

Stop paying rent . . . and start planning for your future!

SELLERS of Real Estate:

"The Sister Team" is here to help with ALL of your real estate needs. Lately, we've had many people ask us questions about the ever-changing market. We can get you top dollar for your home in today's real estate market.

No one lists and sells more homes in the Wood Streets neighborhood! We want you to know that we can help you, and anyone you know, with all of the following concerns:

- ◆ facing foreclosure
- ◆ refinancing
- ◆ reverse mortgages
- ◆ bank repos or bank-owned properties
- ◆ loan modifications
- ◆ short sales

Don't hesitate to pass along our information to someone who may need help. Don't wait or it may be too late. We are your real estate consultants for life and we can help in all areas of the real estate industry. We appreciate all referrals and look forward to being of service.

*Don't forget to call my Mommy
and Aunt April
for all of your real estate needs.
They won't fall asleep on the job!*



REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY REPORT

Listed AND/OR Sold by "The Sister Team"

SOLD

5990	Abernathy	\$ 300,000	4 bed, 3 bath	1985 sq ft	2-car garage
4332	Beechwood	\$ 302,500	4 bed, 2.5 bath	1661 sq ft	2-car garage
3708	Briscoe	\$ 195,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1200 sq ft	1-car garage
3504	Larchwood	\$ 290,000	3 bed, 1.75 bath	1400 sq ft	2-car garage
784	Olivette	\$ 245,000	4 bed, 3.5 bath	2491 sq ft	3-car garage
154	Palmyra	\$ 180,000	3 bed, 2 bath	1997 sq ft	2-car garage
2807	Pleasant (duplex)	\$ 104,000	2 bed, 2 bath	1368 sq ft	no garage

IN ESCROW

5774	Allendale	Sold prices posted in next "Activity Report"	3 bed, 3 bath	1862 sq ft	2-car garage
6812	Valencia		3 bed, 3 bath	1420 sq ft	2- car garage
3637	Washington		2 bed, 1 bath	931 sq ft	1-car garage

AVAILABLE

1881	Arroyo	\$495,000	5 bed, 4 bath	3357 sq ft	2-car garage & pool
3565	Beechwood	\$425,000	4 bed, 3.5 bath	1600 sq ft	2 guest quarters & pool/spa
5060	Hallwood	\$449,900	4 bed, 3.5 bath	2800 sq ft	2-car garage & pool/spa

ALL of the properties above were listed and/or sold by "The Sister Team."

If you would like information on other properties (listed or sold) 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!!***



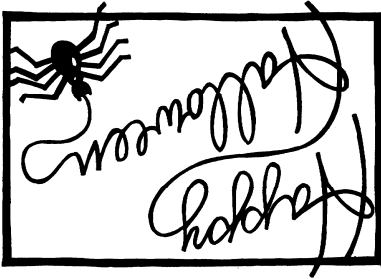
\$495,000 1881 Arroyo — One-of-a-kind 1957 5 bdrm, 4 bth pool home at the end of prestigious Arroyo Drive near the famous Victoria Country Club! Privacy and fantastic views to die for! Remodeled kitchen and bathrooms, with over 3300 square feet! Indoor laundry, newer paint, dual A/C units, two fireplaces, newer roof, citrus trees, 2-car garage, etc. Not a short sale or foreclosure! For more photos, go to www.thesisterteam.com.



\$425,000 3565 Beechwood — This "Wood Streets" 1930's home is exquisite and absolutely gorgeous! Main house has 2 large bdrms, 2 baths and approx 1600 sq ft with central air/heat, fireplace, gorgeous hardwood floors, living room, formal dining room and family room. In addition, there are two separate guest quarters, each with its own 3/4 bathroom! Large rehabbed pool/spa in large low-maintenance backyard! Not a short sale or foreclosure!



\$449,900 5060 Hallwood — This 1930's custom American Colonial has 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, approx 2800 sq ft, and is just amazingly family-friendly! Newer central air/heat, newer 50-year roof, rehabbed pool/spa, two master bedrooms, one on each side of house, two fireplaces, built-ins, plus a large "grandmother's attic" perfect for storage, or turn this square footage into living space. Not a short sale or foreclosure! www.thesisterteam.com



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Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
Here

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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