

# Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

## A Beautiful Heart!

One day a young man stood in the middle of town proclaiming that he had the most beautiful heart in the whole valley. A large crowd gathered and admired his heart, for it was perfect. There was not a mark or flaw upon it. They all agreed it truly was the most beautiful heart they had ever seen.

An old man appeared at the front of the crowd and said, "Why your heart is not nearly as beautiful as mine." The crowd and the young man looked at the old man's heart which was beating strongly, but full of scars; it had places where pieces had been removed and other pieces placed back in, but they didn't fit quite right, and there were several jagged edges.

Everyone stared and thought, "How can he say his heart is more beautiful?" The young man looked at the old man's heart, saw its state, and laughed. "Compare your heart with mine, old man... mine is perfect and yours is a mess of scars."

"Yes," said the old man. "Yours looks perfect, but I would never trade with you. You see, every scar represents a person to whom I have given my love — I tear out a piece of my heart and give it to them, and often they give me a piece of their heart which fits into the empty place in my heart, but because the pieces and love aren't exact, I have some rough edges, which I cherish because they remind me of the love we've shared. Sometimes I've given pieces away, and the other person hasn't returned a piece of their heart to me. These are the empty notches — giving love is taking a chance. Although these notches are painful, they stay open, reminding me of the love I have for these people, with hopes someday they may return and fill the space I have waiting. So now you see what true beauty is."

With tears in his eyes, the young man walked up to the old man, reached into his young perfect heart and offered a piece to the old man.

The old man took his offering, placed it in his heart and then took a piece from his old scarred heart and placed it in the wound of the young man's heart. It fit, but not perfectly. The young man looked at his heart, not perfect anymore, but more beautiful than ever, since love from the old man's heart flowed into his.

*The hurt and pain you experience in life makes your heart stronger and more beautiful.*

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY from our hearts to yours!

—Tara and April



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## Thoughts For a New Year

We are well into the New Year, and some of you may have already given up on your New Year's resolutions, while others are just starting to think about them. If you are considering giving up, or already have, it's not too late! We shouldn't need a "new year" to get things started. It's never too late to do things for yourself, or others, that are healthy, cause happiness, and propel you into forward thinking.



- ◆ How old would you be if you didn't know how old you were?
- ◆ Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing those you hold well.
- ◆ Each day comes bearing its own gifts. Untie the ribbons.
- ◆ Don't live in the past — you've already been there.
- ◆ Do not regret growing old. It is a privilege denied to many.
- ◆ Smiles reach the hard-to-reach places.
- ◆ When writing the story of your life, don't let anyone else hold the pen.
- ◆ What you don't experience positively you will experience negatively.
- ◆ If lessons in life were easy then they wouldn't be lessons.
- ◆ Pain is inevitable, but suffering is optional.
- ◆ You can either accept what is, resist what is, or change what is, but regardless you must deal with what is.



### Valentine Word Search

BOUQUET  
CANDYGRAM  
GIFTBOX  
HEARTS  
HUGGING  
KEAPSAKE  
KISSES  
LOVE  
POEM  
ROMANCE  
ROSES  
SWEETHEART  
VALENTINE

G	N	V	E	W	V	D	E	Z	K	T	S	R	C
Q	N	T	A	P	Y	C	U	E	C	E	C	F	A
N	S	I	O	L	N	D	A	P	W	U	K	X	N
U	A	E	G	A	E	P	U	P	Q	Q	Z	Y	D
P	M	Q	M	G	S	N	K	I	Z	U	H	C	Y
O	R	O	L	A	U	G	T	I	I	O	Z	U	G
R	R	E	K	M	O	H	A	I	S	B	I	K	R
S	H	E	A	R	T	S	B	Z	N	S	K	C	A
S	W	E	E	T	H	E	A	R	T	E	E	T	M
M	J	B	E	V	O	L	T	E	J	B	R	S	D
F	B	U	I	P	K	N	G	T	F	J	O	Y	B
M	J	B	T	N	F	Z	B	R	Q	X	S	P	E
B	L	C	Z	X	O	B	T	F	I	G	E	C	B
C	K	U	K	H	N	R	E	U	A	O	S	S	U



## Neighbors of The Wood Streets Association (NOWS)

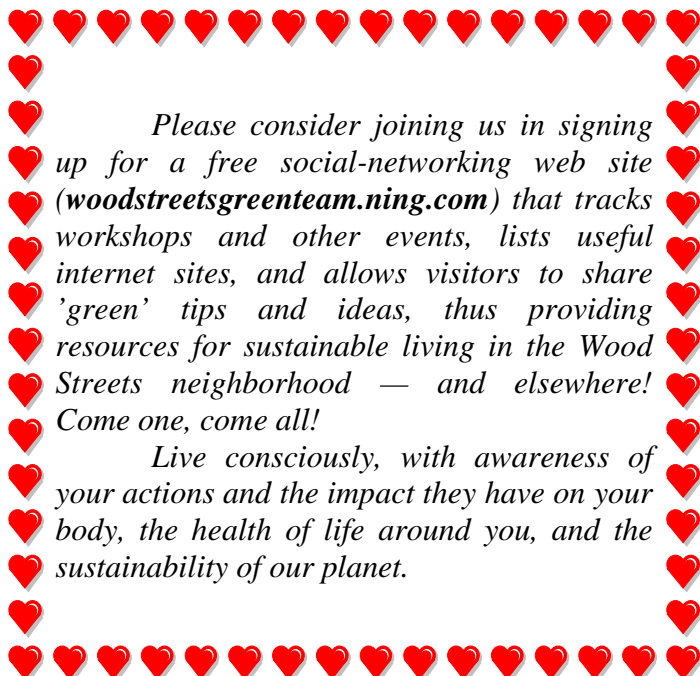
A small group of 'Wood Streets' residents visualized the opportunity to form a free and informative neighborhood association to unite the people of this wonderful neighborhood, and have actually succeeded in hosting a handful of meetings thus far.

The mission of the newly formed Neighbors of the Wood Streets (NOWS) association is to reach out to each other, utilizing various resources to achieve positive change in our community. We have joined together as an origination to ensure that our neighborhood continues to be a safe, thriving, attractive and united community for all who live, work and play here. Our vision of the future of the neighborhood is to preserve its character while improving the supporting infrastructure.



- ♦ We value representative decision making
- ♦ We value each individual regardless of race, age, ethnicity, socio-economic status, sex or sexual orientation
- ♦ We value religion, length of residency, disability or homeowner status without boundaries
- ♦ We value integrity in every dimension of this organization's conduct
- ♦ We value a safe, healthy and aesthetic environment for the Wood Streets neighborhood

We are hoping to encourage more neighbors to participate in this open forum and come to the next meeting on February 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. NOWS meetings will be held on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. so mark your calendar. Please email Corliss D'Agostino (Secretary and Co-Chair) at [babeletf@charter.net](mailto:babeletf@charter.net) if you have any questions or would like to be added to the email list to join us at future meetings (February's meeting location has yet to be determined). If you would like copies of minutes from previous meetings, please contact Corliss. If you don't have email, please feel free to contact April Glatzel at (951) 205-4429.



### GREEN TIP:

**Start a compost. Save a large bucket for temporarily holding compostable materials before putting them into a backyard composter that you can either buy or build yourself. In return, you will be rewarded with a fertilizer which you can use to control several plant diseases without the use of synthetic fungicides or fumigants.**

## Friends Referring Friends!

*A great referral is when  
you introduce someone you care about,  
to someone you trust....*

Gabriel Roth

John Verwiell (past and treasured client)

Allen and Candy Baron

*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.*

**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](http://www.TheSisterTeam.com)**

## Jan/Feb Quiz Question

**What is the postal abbreviation of Iowa?**

*Everyone (any age)  
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 2/25/2011*



## December Quiz Answer

**Question:** What modern vehicle was  
invented to circumvent trench warfare?

**Answer:** The tank

**Congratulations to  
Deena Sanford**

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

## The Pet Page

### I Found a Stray Dog — What Do I Do?

First, consider the safety of the dog and yourself. A frightened and possibly sick or injured dog may behave unpredictably. If the dog appears approachable, use caution and common sense. Speak calmly and perhaps entice him by offering a morsel of food. Assume, no matter how the dog behaves or what it looks like, that he is owned by someone who wants him back. This is the basis for “*think lost, not stray*”.

\* Dogs who run from strangers are often mistaken as having been “abused”, but they may be predisposed to being skittish and their behavior has nothing to do with how they’ve been treated. A lost dog will lose weight, become dehydrated, obtain injuries, become matted, and pick up fleas. Don’t assume the dog was abandoned until you have concrete evidence or until all efforts to find an owner have failed.

\* If you can keep the dog for a little while, take it to any vet’s office and have it scanned for a microchip. Check the “lost & found” ads in the newspaper. Post a giant fluorescent FOUND DOG poster (28” x 22”) with your phone number at major intersections in the area where found.

\* By law, you are required to turn found dogs over to local authorities (animal shelter, pound) where their owner will be able to claim them. One of the primary reasons lost dogs are not reunited with their families is that the animal shelter is the first (and primary) location where dog owners search for their lost dogs but it is typically the last location where found dogs are taken (due to the fear that the dog will be euthanized). Very few shelters have the resources available to house lost and stray animals more than three days. If you are not willing to take the dog to the shelter, most shelters will allow you to foster the dog while also filing a found report by providing the description and your contact information.

\* If you decide to put up numerous FOUND DOG flyers, partially describe the dog so all callers will be forced to identify the dog. Deliver the flyers to rescue groups, vet offices, and pet supply stores in your area.

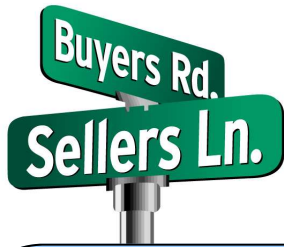
Please go to <http://www.missingpetpartnership.org/recovery-stray.php> for more details and tips on stray dogs, stray cats, prevention and placement/creation of posters. Do not give up hope! The moment you stop searching for your lost pet is the moment that your chances of a happy reunion plummet. Your biggest enemies will be discouragement and a lack of hope!



A purrrfect  
**THANK YOU**  
to Rudy and Paula  
Hoffman for their generous  
donation of \$400 which will  
help save lives through spaying,  
neutering, and  
adoption!

“The Sister Team”  
contributed to the  
spaying and neutering  
of four cats last month!





## SHORT SALES

**Facing Foreclosure?** Don't give up the keys to your home just yet! Scammers are targeting people having trouble paying their mortgages. Some claim to be able to "rescue" homeowners from foreclosures, while others promise loan modifications — for a fee. Steer clear of anyone who offers an easy out. Don't pay for a promise!

### What is a short sale?

A short sale (or pre-foreclosure) is a sales transaction in which the seller's mortgage lender agrees to accept a payoff of less than the balance due on the loan. The short sale process is still a mystery to many people, and not every listing agent is familiar, or has experience, with short sales. "The Sister Team" is in escrow on short sales right now, we have closed escrows on short sales in the past, and will continue to list and sell short sales in the future due to our vast experience. There is no substitute for experience. In a profession filled with complex issues, you need to place your trust in experienced Realtors like us.

Banks grant short sales for two reasons: the seller has a hardship, and the seller owes more on the mortgage than the home is worth. Examples of hardships are unemployment, reduction of income, divorce, medical emergency, job transfer, bankruptcy, and death. There may be a very long wait to get a response from the bank, but with a little patience, the lengthy process will end in a successful sale for sellers, and successful homeownership for buyers.

**New  
Listing**



**\$200,000 — 5444 Tower Road**

"Wood Streets" ranch-style is a 'short sale' but sits on a corner lot and boasts 3 bdrms, 1.75 baths, central air/heat, fireplace, hardwood floors, approx 1345 sq ft, built-in pool, and attached 2-car garage!

**New  
Listing**



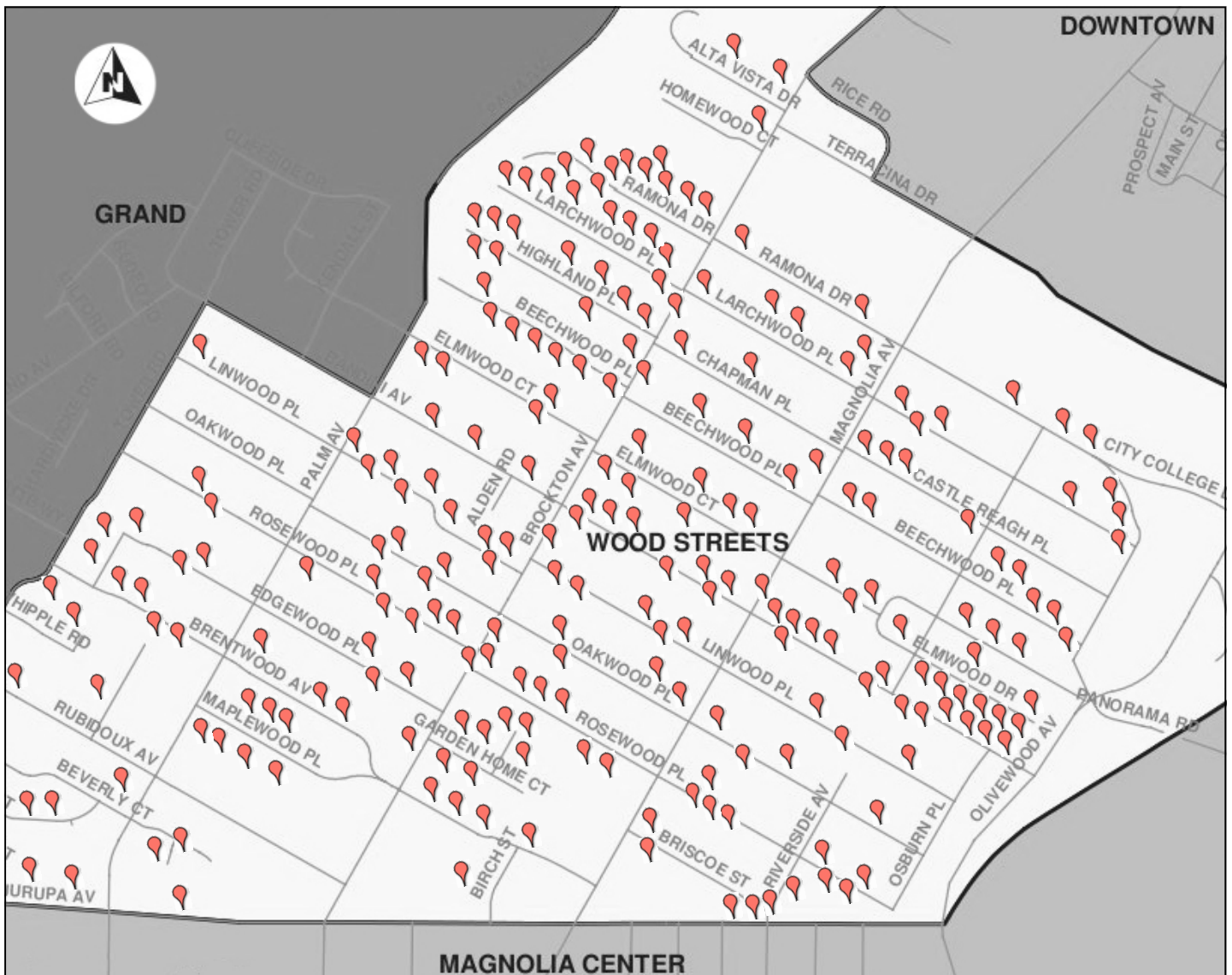
**\$325,000 — 5758 Brockton Avenue**

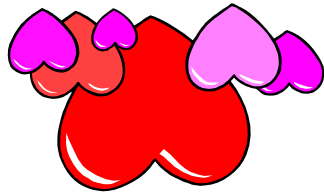
"Wood Streets" 2-story colonial 'short sale' on corner lot with almost 2,800 sq ft living space, 4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, newer central air/heat, hardwood floors, 2 fireplaces, indoor laundry, 2-car garage and gated RV parking!

In the history of the Wood Streets neighborhood, no one has sold more homes here than “The Sister Team”; no one knows the neighborhood better than us. Our expertise, devotion, enthusiasm, and love for the neighborhood makes us your best choice when thinking about buying or selling.

Not only do we live in this neighborhood, but our deep commitment, true interest, proven history of sales, and ability to communicate our enthusiasm for this unique neighborhood to prospective buyers is what sets us apart.

The map below illustrates the hundreds of the homes sold by us —  
your neighborhood specialists — over the past decade.  
We look forward to helping you with all of your real estate needs!





Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!



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Place  
Stamp  
Here

Chit Chat

## Happy 9th Birthday, Chit Chat!

This 8-page Chit Chat newsletter, that we have been personally writing and distributing door-to-door to over 2,100 homes every issue, is celebrating its 9th birthday!!

For those of you who have not been in the neighborhood as long as us, you'll be surprised to know that we were delivering real estate tips, sales stats, American flags, and lots of goodies (candy, note pads, calendars, etc.) for 5 years *before* the inception of the Chit Chat!

No other Realtors come close to our success in this neighborhood! Absolutely no one lists and sells more homes in the Wood Streets than "The Sister Team". This is due to our full-time and long-term commitment to the real estate industry (almost 25 years), our knowledge of the Southern California real estate market, and our personal involvement with every single transaction.

Not only do we live here and work here, but we ride our bikes, take walks, and have had our fingers on the pulse of this amazing and wonderful neighborhood for the past 14 years!



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