

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

FEBRUARY 2003

Love And Marriage

Over breakfast one morning, a woman said to her husband, "I bet you don't know what day this is."

"Of course I do," he indignantly answered, going out the door to the office.

At 10:00 am, the doorbell rang and when the woman opened the door, she was handed a box containing a dozen long-stemmed red roses. At 1:00 pm, a foil-wrapped, two-pound box of her favorite chocolates arrived. Later, a boutique delivered a designer dress.

The woman couldn't wait for her husband to come home. "First the flowers, then the chocolates and then the dress!" she exclaimed.

"I've never had a more wonderful Groundhog Day in my life!"



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February is also...

American Heart Month: To raise awareness for the prevention and treatment of heart disease and stroke.

African Heritage Month: A time for communities to learn about and celebrate the history, contributions and culture of people of African descent.

International Boost Self-Esteem Month: To focus on nurturing self-esteem to inspire oneself and others to reach for new challenges.

The little unremembered acts of kindness and love are the best of a good man's life.

--William Wordsworth

The History of Valentine's Day

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day -- and its patron saint -- is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men -- his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

Later, during the Middle Ages, it was commonly believed in France and England that February 14 was the beginning of birds' mating season, which added to the idea that the middle of February -- Valentine's Day -- should be a day for romance.

The oldest known valentine still in existence today was a poem written by Charles, Duke of Orleans to his wife while he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following his capture at the Battle of Agincourt. The greeting, which was written in 1415, is part of the manuscript collection of the British Library in London, England.

According to the Greeting Card Association, an estimated one billion valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year. An estimated 2.6 billion cards are sent for Christmas. Approximately 85 percent of all valentines are purchased by women. In addition to the United States, Valentine's Day is celebrated in Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France and Australia.

— adapted from www.historychannel.com



HAVE A



AND HELP
STAMP OUT
HOMELESSNESS
FOR DOGS & CATS!



The U.S. Postal Service has issued a set of first-class 37-cent stamps that encourage people to spay or neuter their feline and canine companions. What a perfect opportunity to educate millions about the dog and cat overpopulation crisis -- this will undoubtedly lead to more sterilizations, which means fewer homeless and abused animals.

This year, millions of animals will be euthanized in animal shelters, and millions more will be abandoned to die on the streets. All these deaths could have been prevented—through spaying and neutering. Every single stray cat and every neglected dog came from an animal who wasn't spayed or neutered.

Spaying and neutering is the most important thing we can do to help dogs and cats. By preventing animals from being born and subsequently abandoned or given away to irresponsible people, we prevent animals from being hit by cars, attacked by other animals or cruel people, stolen by laboratory dealers, used as "bait" by dogfighters, or simply stuck outside to die of starvation, exposure, or neglect.

"The Sister Team" is making a pledge right now to help those who are unable to spay or neuter their companion animals. Please contact us and we will donate our time and money to this most-important cause. Thank you!

Tara & April Glatzel

VALENTINE KISSES

Ingredients:

6 cups Krispy Rice Cereal
1 Package Of Marshmallows
3 Tablespoons Margarine
Vegetable Cooking Spray

Utensils:

Microwave Oven
Large Microwave Safe Bowl
Funnel Sprayed With Cooking Spray
12" Square Of Aluminum Foil (4-6 pieces)
1" x 11" Strip Of Paper (4-6 pieces)
Waxed Paper
Mixing Spoon

Directions:

Label each strip of paper to say "A Kiss For You!" Follow directions on cereal box for making treats. Allow the mixture to cool until easy enough to handle. Mold mixture in the funnel. Place on waxed paper to cool completely before wrapping. Wrap kiss and paper strip in aluminum foil. Give as gift to a special someone. Makes 4 - 6 kisses!

LOVABLE HEART COOKIES

Ingredients:

1 20 oz. Roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
1 16 oz. Can pink frosting
Powdered sugar
Heart-shaped cookie cutters - 1 small & 1 large

Directions:

Prepare sugar cookies according to directions on the package for rolled cookies. Cut hearts in dough using a cookie cutter. Use knife or smaller cookie cutter to cut out a heart in the center of half the cookies. Place cookies on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 7-9 minutes. You can bake the baby hearts too, for 5 minutes only. Let cool. Spread each big solid cookie with frosting and top with a cutout cookie. Sprinkle with powdered sugar.



Welcome

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

Roberto and Elvira Cervantes
(referred by Jose & Teresa Gonzalez)

Sandy Harris
(friend and neighbor)

Emile Bradshaw and Tracy Fisher
(new clients)

Barbara Strate
(owns a home in the "Wood Streets")

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.

January Quiz Answer

Question: Who invented the television?

Answer: Philo T. Farnsworth
Source: <http://www.technologyreview.com/articles/schwartz0900.asp>

Congratulations to
Buddy and Inga Nickel

Your name was selected at random
from all of the correct quiz entries
and you'll receive
an Entertainment Coupon Book!

February Quiz Question

What is the world's
most recorded song?

*Whoever responds
with the correct
answer will be
entered into a
drawing for:*

**A \$30 gift
Certificate to
Barnes & Noble**

*Drawing to be held
on 2/28/03*



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 in town.

Just ask "The Sister Team"!
It's all part of our
Free, no-obligation
Home Finder Service.

Leave the address on our voicemail pager:
(909) 278-8755 ext. 121 or 124

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

Keep Your Fruits And Veggies Fresh

Each year the average American throws away \$300 worth of spoiled fruits and vegetables. According to food scientists, most of us don't know how to properly store different types of produce we buy, and for how long. For example, did you know that lettuce should keep up to three weeks if properly washed and wrapped? To help you keep your produce from going to waste – and keep your grocery budget in line – here are some tips for cleaning and storage:

Avocados. Don't refrigerate until after fully ripened. Premature chilling will cause the insides to brown. Instead, ripen at room temperature. Afterward you can refrigerate to preserve them longer. They should keep from one to two weeks.

Bananas. Do not store near other fruits and vegetables, especially citrus fruits, because bananas produce ethylene gas, which can spoil other produce. Also, don't refrigerate, as chilling turns their skins black. Simply store at room temperature, and bananas should keep from one to two weeks.

Berries. Spread them out in a single layer in perforated plastic bags (be sure not to crowd them), then refrigerate. Most varieties will not last longer than a week to 10 days, as mold develops easily. To minimize spoilage, don't wash berries until you eat them.

Lettuce. Soak the leaves in cold water and then spin them in a salad spinner. Next, wrap the lettuce in paper towels, loosely place the bundle in a plastic bag, and refrigerate. Wrapping in water-absorbing paper discourages mold growth and should help the leaves stay fresh for up to three weeks.

Tomatoes. Don't refrigerate. Chilling causes a chemical reaction in tomatoes that leads to a loss of flavor. Depending on how ripe they are when you buy them, tomatoes should last from one to three weeks if kept uncovered in a bowl away from heat.

From the Heart...

Our Walk Against Breast Cancer

Were you aware that breast cancer is the second leading cause of death in women between the ages of 40-55? However, this is not a disease that only affects women. Men too, can be diagnosed with breast cancer.

Just a few months ago, we joined 4,663 other people to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer by raising over \$4,000 and training our bodies for a 3-day, 60-mile walk in Santa Barbara.

We drove up to Santa Barbara and after a comfy night's sleep in a hotel, we awoke the next morning to begin our adventure of walking 20 miles per day, "roughing it" in a tent, showering in make-shift facilities, utilizing porta-potties, and foregoing any luxuries for the next three days.

The walk was filled with blisters, band-aids and the majestic beauty of the California coastline, yet most enjoyably the many friends we made while walking.

Volunteers were set up at various stops along the way to supply walkers with water and food to keep us energized and motivated.

As we approached the finish-line on the third and final day, our mother and one of our best friends, along with hundreds of strangers, were cheering all of us walkers on. Many survivors and families of breast cancer victims were high-fiving us and sincerely thanking us for walking and trying to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer.

What an incredibly emotional experience as we crossed the finish line....we hugged and cried, and cried some more. This wonderful experience will remain with us forever!!

Tara & April Glatzel

PS: If you have a wonderful experience you'd like to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Tips From The Fire Prevention Association

In three of every ten reported fires in homes equipped with smoke alarms, the devices did not work. Households with non-working smoke alarms now outnumber those with no smoke alarms. Don't let one of those homes be yours.

The National Fire Prevention Association offers valuable information about preventing – and surviving – a fire in your home, including these tips about smoke alarms:

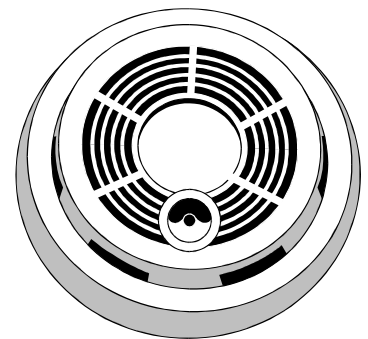
Tips for installing your smoke alarms correctly:

- Install smoke alarms listed (that is, examined and tested to appropriate product safety standards) by a qualified testing laboratory on every level of your home, including the basement (but not unfinished attics). Make sure there is an alarm in or near every sleeping area.
- Mount the smoke alarms high on ceilings or walls – remember, smoke rises. Ceiling-mounted alarms should be installed at least four inches away from the nearest wall; wall-mounted alarms should be installed four to 12 inches away from the ceiling.
- Don't install smoke alarms near windows, outside doors, or ducts where drafts might interfere with their operation. Don't paint your smoke alarms; paint or other decorations could keep them from working when you most need it.

Tips for keeping your smoke alarms working properly:

Test your smoke alarms at least once a month by using the alarm “test button.” Never use an open-flame device to test the alarm as you could burn yourself or start a fire. If the smoke alarm manufacturer's instructions permit the use of an aerosol smoke product for testing the smoke alarm, only use one that has been listed by a third-party product testing agency, and utilize it in accordance with the product instructions.

- Replace the batteries in your smoke alarms once a year, or as soon as the alarm “chirps,” warning that the battery is low. **Helpful hint:** Schedule battery replacements for the same day you change your clock from daylight to standard time in the fall.
- Regularly vacuuming or dusting your smoke alarm following manufacturer's instructions can help keep it working properly.
- Replace your smoke alarms once every 10 years.
- Never “borrow” a battery from a smoke alarm.
- Make sure that everyone in your home can hear and recognize the sound of the alarm and knows how to react immediately.



For more information about keeping your family safe visit the National Fire Prevention Association website at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

– Adapted from the *NFPA* website

PLEASE POST THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD AT WORK

RIVERSIDE
CUSTOM TUDOR IN
"WOOD STREET" NEIGHBORHOOD



\$236,000

Two-story desirable tudor-style with 3 bedrooms (two upstairs), 1.5 bathrooms and 1658 sq ft. on a quiet cul-de-sac (built in 1927). Custom painted covered living room ceiling, fireplace with custom slate tile raised hearth, hardwood floors, large eat-in family kitchen, walk-in pantry, dishwasher, french doors, indoor laundry, 2-car garage, and large landscaped yard with auto sprinklers and fruit trees!

RIVERSIDE
CUTE "WOOD STREET"
STARTER HOME



\$170,000

Perfect 2 bedroom, 1 bath starter home built in 1910 (approx. 1208 sq ft) with large step-down family room added on back. Lots of kitchen cabinets and counter space with built-in gas range. Relocate water heater from kitchen closet and turn closet into a walk-in pantry or laundry room! Large lot with potting shed, RV parking, and 2-car garage made of cement block with automatic door opener. Lot is .21/acre!



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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.

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