

Chit Chat

News for Home and Living

OCTOBER 2007

Halloween Safety Tips

Be aware and informed so your children can have a safe, enjoyable Halloween. Supervise your children's evening, and stay in well-lit and familiar neighborhoods. Keep kids safe this Halloween by following these trick-or-treat guidelines:

Tell kids not to eat any treats before they get home. If necessary, give kids a meal or snack before they go trick-or-treating so they won't be tempted by their candy.

Wear makeup instead of masks — masks reduce vision. Use mom's hypo-allergenic makeup if possible or purchase hypo-allergenic formulas. Remove with cold cream instead of soap and water.

Use a flashlight — it will make children more visible and help light their way.

If possible, trick-or-treat while still daylight. Dusk is the time of poorest visibility for drivers. If trick-or-treating lasts into night, wear a light-colored costume and use reflective tape for additional visibility.

Eat only those treats still in their original, unopened, unpunctured wrappers. Discard all unwrapped candy or unpackaged items such as popcorn. Fruit should be washed and cut into small pieces to ensure nothing has been placed inside. **When in doubt – throw it out!**



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For Sale by "The Sister Team"

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 4th this year!

Remember the old saying: *Spring Forward and Fall Back.*

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK



CHANGE YOUR BATTERY

One of Many Ways To Ensure Your Home's Value

You should try to maintain your home's condition on a continual basis to prevent future costly repairs; e.g. roof repairs, painting, landscaping, etc. In case you need to sell your home, you won't be hard-pressed to make last-minute needed repairs.

While homeowners often hope they can put off repainting their homes just one more year, such procrastination can end up being a costly decision in the end. An excessively wet winter, for instance, will increase paint failure, siding damage and possible internal water damage, which could require far more expensive repairs in the long run. In that respect, it's best to tackle this common home improvement job as soon as you sense the need.

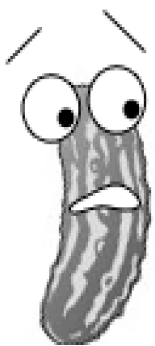


Perhaps the first thing to do, if you suspect painting a house might be in your immediate future, is to take a walk around your property and examine the exterior. Look for areas where your siding is no longer protected by paint, and where wood rot, or clear evidence of water damage is present. If these issues are obvious, the best thing you can do is to act as quickly as possible to head off larger problems.

While spot fixes are preferred from a homeowner standpoint, eventually every home is going to need a new exterior paint job. When that time comes, hiring an experienced painting contractor is the best thing you can do for your home. Proper preparation, the correct choice of paint, and proper application, are the only sure-fire ways to ensure that your new paint job will last for years to come. Hiring a reputable painting contractor, one with good references and a good track record in your neighborhood, is the only way to be sure you won't have to hire someone else to re-paint your house in the near future. For a free estimate, please call Ivan's Painting & Design at (951) 276-0313.

Are Pickles Good For You?

Some pickle makers swear that pickles are good for you. That's what Dolores Mason, a 72-year-old prizewinning pickle maker from West Virginia, says: "There's something in vinegar that's good for your body."



Regardless of whether a vinegary pickle is good for you or not, recently pickles have been enjoying a resurgence in popularity. Why the newfound love of the pickle? It could be due to the introduction of trendy flavors (pickles infused with hot peppers and citrus) and the recent craze for low-carb diets, because – you guessed it – pickles are low in carbs. Richard Hentschel, executive president of Pickle Packers International, says that pickles are naturally low in carbohydrates, with the exception of sweet pickles.

According to the trade association, 67% of American households eat pickles, consuming 2.5 billion pounds each year. The biggest selling pickle in America, the dill, contains only five calories, zero grams of fat, zero grams of protein and one gram of carbohydrates.

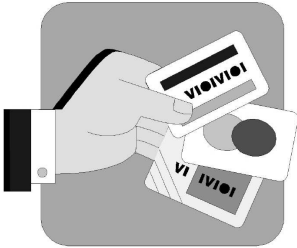
Some dill pickles have a bit of sugar added and the sodium content is around 200 milligrams. Sweet pickles are becoming more popular as pickle makers add sugar substitutes to reduce calories. Some other new pickle flavors on the market include lemon, raisin and apple-cinnamon.

– Adapted from *The Baltimore Sun*

Eat Now – Pay For Eight Years?

If you're stressing about your credit card debt because you're only paying the minimum – don't listen to your friends when they call you a worrywart. You're right to be worried. Why? Try to think of it this way:

Lots of people use their credit cards to splurge a little on eating out every once in awhile. But if you really don't have the cash to eat out, think through this scenario and maybe you'll reconsider your credit card spending behavior.



If you and your spouse or partner eat out about once a month and spend somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50 on dinner, you'll have racked up \$600 in credit card debt at the end of a year. But let's say you're running a little short and you decide you're only going to make minimum payments to pay off your debt. Here's what's going to happen.

Your \$600 debt will take 96 months to pay off because you're paying the minimum, and your interest is compounding. That means those harmless monthly dinners are going to take you eight years to pay off (at an interest rate of 15% and basing your minimum payment on interest plus 1%). And you'll pay \$405.32 in interest, making the grand total for 12 restaurant dinners a whopping \$1,005.32.

Some Laughs For Lexophiles

Are you a lexophile, that is, a lover of words? If so, then here are some words whose usage you'll love.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's two tired.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.

Brooklyn
Update



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!

Andy and Carolyn Power (past & treasured clients)

Jeff and Sunni Woolf

Jane Trieweler

Brian Yeager

Mike and Paula Arnott

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 is the population of the City of Riverside, California?

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 11/15/07



September Quiz Answer

Question: Who was the first American to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Answer: President Theodore Roosevelt

source: <http://www.theodoreroosevelt.org/life/nobelportsmouth.htm>

(Turn to page 6 to read more about President Theodore Roosevelt)

Congratulations to Frieda Sonksen

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.

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(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

What exactly *is* a feral cat???

Feral cats are the “wild” offspring of domestic cats and are primarily the result of pet owners’ abandonment or failure to spay and neuter their animals, allowing them to breed uncontrolled. Feral cat “colonies” can be found behind shopping areas or businesses, schools, alleys, parks, abandoned homes and fields. They are elusive and do not trust humans.



Feral cat rescued and rehabilitated by April Glatzel. Not all cats have such a happy ending!


Many people assume their animals will survive when they move away and leave them behind. Contrary to popular belief, domestic animals do NOT automatically return to their “natural” instincts and cannot fend for themselves! Already, U.S. animal shelters are forced to kill an estimated 15 million (did you comprehend that?? 15 million) homeless cats and dogs annually. The alternative to humane euthanasia for almost every stray is a violent end or slow, painful death. Many “throwaways” die mercilessly outdoors from starvation, disease, abuse — or as food to a predator (namely, coyotes in the “Wood Streets” neighborhood).

A pair of breeding cats, which can have two or more litters per year, can exponentially produce 420,000 offspring over a seven-year period. And the overpopulation problem carries a hefty price tag. Statewide, more than \$50 million (largely from taxes) is spent by animal control agencies and shelters for cat-related expenses.

Studies have proven that trap/neuter/release (TNR) is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy feral cat colonies with the least possible cost to local governments and residents, while providing the best life for the animals themselves.

Does spay/neuter/release actually work?

Statistics from the San Diego Department of Animal Control as of 1997 show that while the number of cats adopted has remained fairly constant over the years, there has been a decrease of almost 50% in the number of cats impounded and killed as compared to 1992, when the Feral Cat Coalition (FCC) clinics started.



To mark each sterilized feral cat as “fixed”, most feral cat coalitions require that every cat has its ear tipped, straight across 1/4 inch, while the animal is already anesthetized for the spay/neuter surgery. There is little to no bleeding. Ear tipping does not count as unnecessary mutilation because it prevents more suffering than it causes, and aesthetically the affected ear is no less attractive than a lot of the shredded ears that have been damaged by cats themselves in fights. No other method of visual identification has proven to be as safe or effective. This allows the cat, if trapped again, to be released without having to undergo anesthesia and surgery again.

***Stray cats are not feral cats.** A stray was once someone's pet but became nervous because of their experiences living as a stray. Once rescued and spayed or neutered, it may only be a matter of days or sometimes several weeks for those cats to regain their trust in people and restore them to loving pets.

If you encounter any *strays* or what you believe to be feral cats, please contact The Sister Team for suggestions/recommendations on helping these beautiful creatures as soon as possible, or go online to one of the many cat coalitions: Alley Cat Allies (www.alleycat.org) or Feral Cat Coalition (www.feralcat.com).

◆ If you are thinking about adopting a companion animal, please consider the Riverside County Animal Shelter first. You will not only find a friend that will love you unconditionally, but you will be saving a life. If you already have a companion animal, please consider the Riverside Animal Shelter's low cost spay/neuter clinic (951-358-7373) or visit one of the Saturday low-cost vaccination clinics or visit the clinic Tue-Fri 9 am to noon for walk-in vaccinations or \$15 microchip (collars/tags can come off). If you've lost a pet, go to their website at www.rcdas.org to view photos of found pets. OR, if you need help with the cost of a spay or neuter, please contact The Sister Team and we will donate money to this incredibly important cause! 🌸

You Can Do It

Do you have something in mind that you would like to accomplish, but you don't really feel you have the know-how to realize it? That seems to be a common problem occurring in today's world.



Perhaps we're out of touch with the days when people had to do virtually everything for themselves. If they wanted a blanket to stay warm during the winter, someone in the household had to make it. Or if they needed a fence to keep deer out of the garden – someone had to build it. But as technological advances make life more convenient, people may continue to grow further and further away from self-sufficiency. It seems as time goes by, individuals are losing the ability to solve problems with the creativity they possess.

Remember the words of Marianne Williamson: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and fabulous. Actually, who are you *not* to be?"

– Adapted from "Waiting for the Mountain to Move," by Charles Handy

Choose Your Group

My grandfather once said that there were two kinds of people: those who do the work and those who take the credit. He told me to try to be in the first group; there was much less competition.

– Indira Gandhi

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President Theodore Roosevelt

President Theodore Roosevelt was the first American awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, which occurred in 1906 for his work in the negotiations that led to the Treaty of Portsmouth, ending the Russo-Japanese War in 1905. He gave away the prize money, explaining to his children that to accept the money would be like taking money for saving a drowning man.

The prize consisted of a large gold medal (which is now in the White House), a diploma in a fancy case, and a cash award of \$36,734.79. By the time the fund, with interest, was disbursed in 1918, the total amount was \$45,482.83. President Roosevelt made twenty-eight different donations of various amounts to war relief efforts during World War I. A few of the gifts included \$6,900 to the Red Cross; \$5,000 to Eleanor Roosevelt for her YMCA project; an additional \$4,000 to the YMCA National War Work Council; and \$500 to Leslie M. Tarlton of Nairobi for any war charity in Uganda or British East Africa.

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neighborhood than
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Tara and April Glatzel
"The Sister Team"

*If you are looking
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homes before they're
listed in the MLS!*



\$304,999 2 bd/1 bth, central air/heat, 2-car gar!



\$339,900 3 bd/1 bth, new kitchen, gorgeous!



\$339,900 2 bd/1 bth, plus guest house, NICE!



\$349,900 3 bd/1 bth, plus bonus room & 2-car!



\$349,900 3 bd/1.75 bth, built-ins, hrdwd floors!



\$359,000 3 bd/2 bth, complete home makeover!



\$369,999 3 bd/1.75 bth, central air/heat, 2-car!



\$389,000 3 bd/1.75 remodeled bths, wood flrs!



\$399,000 3 bd/1.75 bth, central air/heat, pool!



\$415,000 3 bd/1.75 bth, 2000+ sq ft, pool, nice!

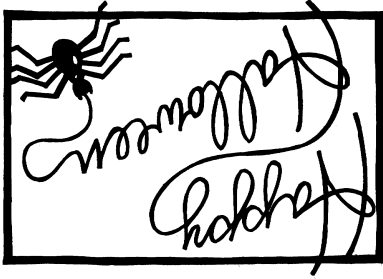


\$425,000 3 bd/1 bth, central air, guest house!



\$649,900 3 bd/3 bth, complete makeover, pool!

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



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Chit Chat

Place
Stamp
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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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