

Bruce's Neighborhood Greetings



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HALLOWEEN IS COMING 10/31!

Friday October 31 is the day a lot of us become a kid again, either because we take our kids out for Trick or Treating around the neighborhood or because we as parents get to help our kids go through their over filled bags. This enables us to pick out our favorites to enjoy at the same time. Don't get upset over the last statement... you know we all have done it. After all, who can resist a Snicker's bar, or maybe the smooth tasting Three Musketeer's is your bar of choice. Of course the main reason for going through the bags is our children's safety. Remember, this is also the time when those not quite right in their heads attempt to reap havoc on our kid's fun. This year should be like those of recent memory, which would suggest that the local hospitals will be providing candy screening at no charge. This is a wonderful service available just for the asking. Check with your local hospital administrator to verify they will be offering it this year. The screening is important to detect foreign things within the candy. As good minded neighbors offering candy, you should offer candy that has an individual wrapper and is completely sealed from the outside air. Another safe idea to offer is money. You may want to consider giving quarters out instead of candy. When you add up what the candy costs and compare it to giving out to one hundred kids, you may find that the cost is about the same. Consider a healthy alternative to candy for the Trick or Treaters. What do Real Estate and Halloween have in common? Haunted houses of course!

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Just one example of how Halloween and Real Estate go hand in hand!

Neighborhood Forum

This is the section dedicated to the readers of this newsletter. Those of you considering replacing your roof should seriously consider doing so over the next couple of months. Like anything else we go to purchase, supply and demand have a huge affect on the price. The worst time to get an estimate on something is when it is most in demand. The worst time to get a bid from a roofer is when it is about to rain or is already raining. The hungrier the vendor the more inclined they will be to negotiate with you. In walking through our neighborhood, I have noticed quite a few of you are milking the life out of your current roof. Feel free to contact me for a couple of

highly recommended roofing contractors. Another favorite Vendor of choice is Jose Munoz for all of your landscape and yard maintenance needs. Jose can and will do it all for you. Considered adding sprinklers or converting existing ones to automatic type? Contact Jose for an estimate. We rely on Jose and his expertise in maintaining our landscaped areas. He can be reached at 310-350-8257. One more favorite vendor I recommend is Universal Painting Co. Brian Yoon is a licensed painting contractor who offers excellent quality work at unlicensed prices! His number is: 562-331-1005.

To contribute to future editions of our neighborhood newsletter, you can e-mail your thoughts and ideas to the information below.



House Selling Tips SOLD!

Three Smart Tips for Home Sellers

Selling your home should be an exciting experience. Whether you're upgrading, downsizing, or relocating, making the right choices can lead to a faster sale at a better price. Here are three essential tips every home seller should follow to skip the stress, attract buyers, and close the deal with confidence.

Boost curb appeal. Buyers begin forming opinions as soon as they pull into the driveway. Make first impressions count by tidying up the lawn, mulching flower beds, planting seasonal blooms, and giving the front door a fresh coat of paint. Simple upgrades can add instant charm and set the tone for a fantastic showing.

Declutter and depersonalize. Buyers need to envision themselves living in the home rather than feeling like visitors in someone else's home. Remove personal photos and clutter. A clean, neutral, and open layout helps buyers see the potential of each room and can make the home feel larger and more inviting.

Price it right. Overpricing their property is one of the biggest mistakes sellers make. While it's important to get the most value from a sale, pricing too high can lead to fewer showings and more time sitting on the market. Work with your real estate agent to analyze local properties and set a competitive, realistic price to attract qualified buyers from day one.



If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard this notice. Copyright 2025



Health & Safety Glowing Confidence

3 Skincare Tips for Radiant Skin

Healthy, glowing skin isn't just about outward appearance; it's about confidence and self-care. With countless products and routines constantly promoted, planning for proper skincare may feel overwhelming. The biggest key to achieving healthy skin is consistency, not complexity. Here are three tips to obtain a radiant, healthy complexion:

Cleanse gently. Properly cleansing the skin is the foundation of any skincare routine. It is essential to remove dirt, oil, makeup, and other debris that can clog pores. Choose a gentle, pH-balanced cleanser appropriate for your skin type and cleanse twice daily.

Hydrate thoroughly. Hydration is key when it comes to youthful, healthy skin. Drink plenty of water and use a lightweight, non-comedogenic moisturizer for oily skin, and a thick, rich cream for dry or mature skin.

Protect diligently. Sun protection may be the single most effective anti-aging step you can take when it comes to skincare. Ultraviolet rays can cause premature aging, discoloration, and even skin cancer. Apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher every morning.



Food Preservation and Storage Tips

Wasting food can be tough on your budget and tough on the planet. Learning proper ways to store and preserve food can help stretch the grocery budget, reduce waste, and keep leftovers tasting their best. Here are three simple, yet effective, ways to make your food last longer:

Learn fridge zones. The refrigerator is not just a cold box—it has different zones for different foods. Store raw meat on the bottom shelf to prevent drips, place dairy toward the back where it is coldest, and keep fruits and veggies in crisper drawers to prevent spoilage. Store leftovers in clear, airtight containers so they're easy to see and reuse.

Freeze properly. Freezing is often the simplest way to preserve food. Blanch fresh vegetables before freezing to lock in the flavor and nutrients. Store in airtight freezer bags and write the date with a permanent marker to ensure that the oldest items are used first.

Embrace natural methods. From pickling to drying, traditional preservation methods never go out of style. Quick pickling vegetables can extend shelf life and add flavor to meals. Try dehydrating fruits or herbs for snacks and seasoning. Store onions, garlic, and potatoes in a cool, dark place to help them stay fresh for weeks.



Stage to Impress; Simple Tips to Make Your Home Show Ready!

First impressions may be the most meaningful step of the home buying process. Home staging is one of the most effective ways to make your property stand out to buyers, helping them envision themselves living there. Here are three key home staging tips to help you showcase your space in the best possible light:

Declutter and depersonalize. Buyers are interested in your home, not your stuff. Clear countertops, remove personal photos, and pack away unnecessary items. Aim for a clean, open feel that allows people to imagine how they would use the space.

Focus on lighting and neutral colors. Bright, well-lit rooms feel warm and welcoming. Open curtains to let in natural light and add lamps to dark corners. Repaint with neutral tones like soft grays, beiges, or warm whites to create a clean canvas that appeals to more buyers.

Add simple, inviting touches. A few strategic accents can go a long way. Fresh flowers, a bowl of lemons in the kitchen, or a cozy throw blanket on the couch can make a home feel inviting.



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Creamy Pumpkin Pasta

Ingredients:

1 lb. penne pasta

1 Tbsp. olive oil

3-4 minced sage leaves

3-4 minced garlic cloves

15 oz. pumpkin puree

½ tsp. salt

½ tsp. black pepper

¼ tsp. ground nutmeg

½ c. whole milk

**Grated parmesan and/or
crème fraiche (optional)**

Cook the penne pasta in salted water according to the package's instructions. Reserve one cup of the pasta water; drain the rest and set pasta aside. In a large skillet over medium heat, warm the olive oil and add garlic and sage. Cook for approximately one minute. Add the pumpkin puree, salt, pepper, and nutmeg, then continue cooking for two to three more minutes. Add the milk and stir until creamy. Toss the pasta with the sauce and add ½ cup of the reserved pasta water. Continue adding water while stirring until the sauce is glossy and clings to the pasta. Sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese and/or a dollop of crème fraiche and enjoy!



Will Rates Ever Come Down?

Our recent Home Buying Seminar resulted in pre-approved home buyers. I have been conducting these for over thirty two years. There are favorably priced loans to consider that are a 10 year adjustable. Fixed for the first 10 years represents a decent way to become a home buyer in today's era of higher interest rates. While it helps Buyer's overall affordability and qualifying for their home purchase it also means we are in a time with fewer sellers in the market. If you have thought about selling your home and uplegging or downsizing, this is a great time to do so. I can make the process an easy one for you. If you know of anyone who might be thinking of selling I would appreciate you forwarding my name and information to them so I can set up a no obligation consultation. The question that I hear often from future Buyers is "When is it a good time to buy?" Unless a Buyer is paying cash for the home, the interest rate and monthly payment are the most important criteria. In my opinion we may see prices go lower after 3rd quarter. The annual appreciation rate will be lower, but still increase from a year ago! There are fewer houses coming to market through foreclosure and short sale. Supply and demand already have helped prices shoot through the roof so to speak. Real Estate used to be a series of cycles; those are a thing of the past. The best time to buy Real Estate is when it is soonest financially and emotionally possible to do so! It costs nothing for you or your buyer/seller referral to learn what I can do for you and them!

Is a Home Warranty Worth the Cost?

My wife and I decided to bite the bullet and purchase a home warranty for our home. The first year is typically less money than the cost to renew in future years. Our homes are our biggest investments. The old Fram Oil commercials had it right when they suggested you can pay me now or pay me later! Same thing goes for our homes. The smartest thing you can do is address problems as they occur rather than wait for these problems to become bigger more expensive problems. Home warranty plans typically have a \$100 co-payment. As long as you choose to exercise smart sense the warranty will save you lots of money throughout the year. The first year cost is around \$660 depending on whether you have A/C or not. All you need is a pipe to burst, an oven to go out or worse yet, your refrigerator go on the fritz. The warranty will easily pay for itself for most homeowners. For those that have replaced their major systems and appliances recently, you may be the exception, but not the rule. For most of us, our appliances and systems are out of manufacturer warranty leaving you on the financial hook for any repairs. You can count on at least a \$200 bill for a minor repair needed for any of your appliances and systems every time a repair is needed.

For more information and a referral to a home warranty company feel free to contact me. While most are similar in cost, not all are the same for coverage. Choice Home Warranty has the most included coverage of the major carriers.



Halloween Pictorial Continued from Pg. 1



With Real Estate it pays to look at it under the darkness of night as well!



Halloween without Candy Corn is like the 4th of July w/o fireworks!



Trick or Treaters going for the loot!



Not exactly Miss America!



They really did dress their pets up too!



The instructions said if I wish into this Crystal Ball, I will become the Fairest of Them All! Oh well, I hope I can get a refund of my money!



Since we are talking about Real Estate, I thought I would share a new listing I saw in Transylvania! Only used in Daylight!