Bruce's Neighborhood Greetings





November 2026 Volume 25 Issue 11

Thanksgiving Is Right Around The Corner!

Thursday November 26, 2026 is the day our families get together to celebrate and give thanks. It is, of course, Thanksgiving. The story of Thanksgiving dates back to the Pilgrims. I won't go in to the details of their journey but it is important to put things in to our own perspective. My family and I have always appreciated Thanksgiving as an opportunity to bring our family together and celebrate how blessed we are. I can remember the many discussions around the festive tables over the years. Current events take top billing most of the time, catching up on friends and relatives not seen as often and of course lots of talk centered around the plentiful food. Depending on your family traditions and culture you probably have your Thanksgiving holiday meal favorite too. Do you think our forefathers ever imagined a deep fried Turkey as their main star attraction at the table? Well it has become pretty common of late. When I cook our turkey, from preparing it for the oven to ready to carve (depending on its size) it takes almost four hours. Deep frying takes about an hour. There are many good recipes available on the internet if you are interested in this type of preparation. The cooker is heated by propane or electric. You can buy one for around $70-100 at Home Depot. Make sure you get a thermometer to be able to test the temperature of the bird and one for the oil. It should be held at 350 degrees. Remember when you place the turkey in, your temperature will go down. For safety and ease of cleanup place newspaper on the ground to catch any hot oil splatter!

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Some of the foods that help us bring in the Holiday- - Bon Appetit!

Neighborhood Forum

This is the section dedicated to the readers of this newsletter. Traveling through our neighborhood I have been able to meet face to face with a number of you. I appreciate the kind words of encouragement a lot of you have given me. It gives me satisfaction to know that so many of you are enjoying receiving and reading this publication. The weather is changing these days. I am sure you have noticed the colder and dew dampened mornings. With this change comes the need to re-assess our watering schedules and needs. It is still very important for us to conserve. If you have automatic sprinkler systems this is the time to adjust your watering schedule. If you know in advance that rain is forecast, take a moment and switch your system off. Think about it, how many times you drive by somewhere when it is raining and notice the sprinklers going. Time to look at ourselves and take the necessary action. If you need professional help with your yard work or sprinkler maintenance, contact Jose Munoz at 310-350-8257.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of my neighborhood newsletter, you can e-mail your thoughts and ideas to the information below.

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Time To Change Your Time Pieces

Daylight Savings Time comes to an end at 2am on Sunday November 1st. For most of us this means we should change our time pieces before we go to sleep on Saturday October 31st. Remember the saying we learned as kids...Spring forward, Fall backward!

Every year, and this one is no exception, Congress throws around the idea of eliminating Daylight Savings Time Change. So far though it has failed to go anywhere so for now we will stick to what we have.



Veterans' Day November 11th!

While this day is special to acknowledge our Veterans and Active service members, it is just as important to do so on a daily basis. We owe our thanks and gratitude for their service to help us as a country maintain our Freedom!



Health & Safety

Thanksgiving Safety Tips

The biggest cooking day of the year is just around the corner! Whether you're hosting family and friends or attending festivities under someone else's roof, follow these tips to help ensure a happy and safe Turkey Day:

Stay alert. Thanksgiving is the biggest day for cooking fires. Keep a close eye on your oven and stovetop. With so many different dishes cooking, it can be easy to forget about one until you see smoke. Don't leave any items unattended, and keep flammable items away from the stove.

Deep fry outside. Deep-frying the turkey is a popular way to prepare the main dish. However, it is essential to stay safe doing so. Go outside! Ensure the turkey is completely thawed, and pat the bird with paper towels before submerging it in oil to help avoid splattering. Keep a fire extinguisher close by for emergencies.

Cook meat thoroughly. Avoid food poisoning by practicing proper hygiene while preparing food and using a food thermometer to ensure the meat is safe to eat. Wash your hands, disinfect all utensils and surfaces while you cook, and store leftovers in the refrigerator.

Cut carefully. When you're in a hurry, accidents are more likely to happen. Wash and store knives immediately after use, and if you've had libations, let someone else carve the turkey.

If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard this notice. Copyright 2026 ©

Black Friday is Almost Here– 11/27

Will you participate in this year's holiday tradition? Last year some retailers rolled back their shopping hours. A couple years ago the trend began to start the sales in the late afternoon of Thanksgiving rather than in the early morning hours, such as 5am for example. This year it seems like we will see most waiting to start at the 6am mark.

This year will be like the past five with Walmart already announcing that their stores will be closed on Thanksgiving.

I am not sure how JC Penny and Macy's will do during this period and big holiday weekend. At the time of this writing many are in or about to be in bankruptcy! We can either expect to see really terrific sales as a last ditch effort to grab holiday sales or the opposite in an attempt to remain solvent. The ads will be out within a couple weeks so keep an eye out. WWW.blackfriday.com is a good site for ad previews and planning.



Help for Managing Fatigue During the Holidays

The holiday season is a time of joy and celebration, but it can also bring overscheduled days, added responsibilities, and emotional stress. Consider these tips for managing holiday fatigue so you can enjoy the season while also protecting your well-being.

Schedule downtime. Shopping, gatherings, travel, and year-end obligations can fill every moment. Prioritize rest by scheduling downtime to recharge and restore your energy. Whether it's with a good book, a quiet walk, or even a nap, regular breaks can help prevent feeling burned out.

Delegate responsibilities. You can't do everything alone and shouldn't stress yourself out trying. Holiday cooking, decorating, and shopping responsibilities can be divided evenly among family members. Sharing the workload helps reduce stress and creates opportunities for others to contribute to holiday traditions.

Manage expectations. Idealistic, picture-perfect moments are heavily marketed throughout the holidays, often creating unrealistic expectations. Give yourself permission to simplify traditions. It's okay if some decorations aren't displayed or if every recipe isn't homemade. Focus on what brings you and your family joy and let go of the rest.



Orange Fennel Salad

Ingredients:

2 oranges

½ red onion

2 fennel bulbs

½ c. fresh basil, chiffonade cut

¼ c. olive oil

Zest from one lemon

2 Tbsp. lemon juice

2 Tbsp. honey

Pinch of salt

Using a sharp knife, cut the peel from the oranges, including the white pith, and slice into 1/8-inch-thick rings. Arrange in a single layer on a large platter; overlap is ok. Cut the stems and roots off the fennel bulbs, then slice them in half, lengthwise. Trim away and discard the hard cord at the base of the bulb, then very thinly slice each bulb using a mandoline if available. Also, very thinly slice the red onion and separate the half-rings. Arrange the fennel on the platter, layering with the oranges. Sprinkle the red onion and the basil over the oranges and fennel. In a small bowl, combine the olive oil, lemon zest and juice, honey, and salt, whisking until combined. Drizzle the dressing over the salad and serve.



Rates are not Going Lower Anytime Soon!

Our recent Home Buying Seminar resulted in pre-approved home buyers. I have been conducting these for over twenty nine 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 won't see prices go lower anytime soon. 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!

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Vendors Recommended To Consider Using

I have been fortunate to cross paths with some very good Vendors over the years. All will provide the best bang for your buck. None pay me anything for the referral. These are provided to you to help you get a better end result with either your repair or home improvement. I have personally used each of them so I not only speak of my Client's feedback but also my own. Be sure to tell them where and how you heard of them so they take even better care of your needs.

Haydu Construction (licensed contractor and architect services): 310-375-2025
Universal Painting (licensed- painting, interior and exterior): 562-925-8203
Marquez Cabinets(custom cabinet maker and installer): 562-696-1836

Planet Stone(granite,silestone and marble fabricator): 818-860-7142

Cal Tile Center(granite, quartz tile and fabrication):310-698-4586

Sam's Club(wood flooring material): 310-534-0134
Gonzalo Miranda(tile installer): 310-350-7384

Grout& Tile Miracles -Steve (seal tile and grout): 310-561-9850

Five Points Sash & Windows (Chris): 310-326-4141

Sean Siphene—Plumber:714-752-9239

Please contact me for names of others as your needs dictate.



Thanksgiving Pictorial continued from Pg.1~~~~~~~



Other than for decoration, when would you use a "Horn of Plenty" ?



Don't forget the Mashed Potatoes, Gravy and All the Trimmings!



Boston Market eat your heart out!



A touch of Romance makes the Meal special. Say it with Candles and Wine.....



Finally I can relax until next year!



A turkey is like Cracker Jack, a prize in every one! So don't forget to take it out!



Why couldn't it be "Lamb" Day?