

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

Security Pacific Real Estate



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Committed to YOUR needs!

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"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."—Helen Keller

Volunteer your time to Fight Hunger

Everyone can help in the fight against hunger. Consider:

- Donating food to a food drive or local food program.
- Volunteering your time and energy at a soup kitchen, shelter or food bank.
- Contributing money in memory or honor of friends & loved ones.
- Hosting a meal for friends or neighbors who are down on their luck.
- Shopping during 2 for 1 sales and donating the second can/box of food to your local food pantry.
- Being mindful of waste at home, school and work—ask a charity before you throw items away.



Food Donations this Holiday Season

Every food donation helps in the fight against hunger—no matter how small or large. Check with your local community to see how you can specifically help. The most needed items include:

- Canned meats—ham, turkey, chicken, beef, and tuna
- Peanut butter and jelly/jam
- Canned soup
- Fruit and vegetables—fresh (in season) or canned
- Macaroni and cheese
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Cereals
- Rice and beans
- Fruit juice
- Coffee and tea
- Sugar and flour
- Can openers



Tis the Season... Indoor Projects for Warmth and Savings

With the cold of winter upon us, you may want to tackle some indoor maintenance projects that will bring you even more warmth and energy savings.

- **Install extra insulation.**
Install plastic sheets on windows that require extra protection from the wind (kits are widely available at hardware stores or home centers). Add weather stripping around doors if necessary.
- **Patch and paint.**
Inspect interior walls and ceilings for holes or cracks. Patch and paint as necessary. Watch for bubbling or cracking, which could indicate water damage.
- **Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.**
Test each unit, and replace batteries if needed.
- **Maintain appliances.**
Unplug the refrigerator and clean it thoroughly with soap and hot water. Vacuum the condenser coil for better energy efficiency. If the drain pan is removable, clean it in soapy water. Clean the inside of the dishwasher, the stove exhaust fan, the inside of the oven, and microwave.
- **Inspect bathroom caulking.**
Remove and replace crumbling caulk around the bathtub, sink, or toilet. Make sure no moisture is leaking under the bathtub or shower stall.



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Repair, Replace, Relax with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides themselves on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. Fidelity National Home Warranty believes all information to be reliable, but assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy.

Edible Christmas gifts

Sometimes the best gifts are those you can sink your teeth into.

A present that has been specially prepared or planned can be really unique—and if you are the one making the gift, why not have fun in the kitchen too!

CARAMELIZED ONION JAM

- 8 red onions
- 6 T. brown sugar
- 6 T. balsamic vinegar
- 2/3 C. red wine
- Bay leaf and olive oil
- Olive oil

Thinly slice the onions into half-moon slivers. Cook over medium heat in a few tablespoons of olive oil until they go very soft and start to caramelize (about 15 minutes). Add the remaining ingredients, stirring occasionally over the same medium flame for another 10 minutes or so, or until most of the liquid has cooked away. Remove the bay leaf and decant marmalade to sterilized jars.

PEPPERMINT BARK

- Crushed candy canes, to yield 1 cup
- 2 pounds white chocolate
- Peppermint flavoring, optional

Place candy canes in a plastic bag and hammer into 1/4-inch chunks or smaller. Melt the chocolate in a double boiler. Combine candy cane chunks with chocolate (add peppermint flavoring at this point if desired.) Pour mixture onto a cookie sheet layered with parchment or waxed paper and place in the refrigerator for 45 minutes or until firm. Remove from cookie sheet and break into pieces (like peanut brittle).

CINNAMON SUGAR

Take a sealable jar and fill with sugar. Poke 6-8 large cinnamon sticks into the sugar and leave for 2-4 weeks. Use for baking and sprinkling on hot buttered toast.

by Amy Willcock



Looking to Dress up the Fireplace? Just Add Jewelry!

The black dress is a wardrobe basic, but jewelry adds the sparkle. At home, a few well-placed accessories can dress up a basic fireplace too.

If the fireplace doesn’t have a mantel, consider adding one. A mantel can provide a finished look, and can make a small fireplace look bigger. Whether choosing a mantelshelf, or a full surround mantel, be sure the design complements the room, and neither overwhelms nor underwhelms the size of the firebox.

An eye-catching fireplace screen—costs little, installs in seconds, and creates an instant focal point.

Firesets are a necessity for wood burning fireplaces and are a great decoy for gas fireplaces. They include a brush, ash shovel, and poker mounted in a decorative stand. For a perfect finishing touch set out a brass match holder, an old-fashioned bellows, or beautifully styled andirons. Basics are good—but accessorizing is better!

Courtesy of ARA Content