

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

Security Pacific Real Estate



Ken Anderson
Realtor

11707 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste. 300
Fair Oaks, CA 95628
Phone: 916.257.4663
Fax: 916.965.5257
ken@kenandersonrealtor.net

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Ensure Comfort All Winter Long.

Tune-Up Tips for Your Home

Homeowners are creatures of comfort, and with colder days ahead, now is the time to ensure your heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are in tip-top shape. Ongoing maintenance and simple tune-ups can ensure your system runs properly and efficiently, helping to reduce costly energy and repair bills.

● Arrange proactive maintenance.

Schedule regular appointments with a heating and air conditioning dealer to service your system before winter and again before summer.

● **Change the filters.** Heating and air conditioning system filters should be changed every 30 days, or as often as recommended by the manufacturer.

● **Check for leaks.** Windows and doors are prime suspects for air leakage. Check around every frame for cracks, gaps and poor-fitting fixtures. Seal leaks with caulking or weather-stripping.

● **Program the thermostats.** Save energy by installing a programmable thermostat that adjusts the temperature during the day. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, by turning your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for 8 hours, you can save 5 percent to 15 percent a year on your heating bill!

Courtesy of ARA Content

Daffodils—Fall Investment, Many Spring Returns

Plant Now for Spring Color

Start your spring color planning now because fall planting time is upon us. Here are three good reasons to add daffodils to your landscape planting schedule:

First, there is a range and beauty in daffodils well beyond the traditional yellow trumpets you so often see along the roadways.

Second, daffodils are great naturalizers that will flourish for many years with little care when planted in sunny, well-drained flowerbeds.

Finally, daffodils are deer and rodent resistant — a major benefit for those of you struggling to garden in the presence of our tetrapoded friends. Simply put, daffodils are a good fall landscape investment providing many springs of beautiful returns.

TIP: In daffodils, bulb size matters. Always go for a topline or double nose bulb which will produce 2 or 3 flower stems rather than a smaller landscape grade of bulb, which may produce only one flower. The moral here is to buy daffodil bulbs based on the cost per flower rather than the cost per bulb.

You can find more information about daffodils by visiting www.daffodildepot.com or www.colorblends.com or call toll free (888) 847-8637 to request a Colorblends 2005 Wholesale Catalog.

Courtesy of ARA Content



WILDFIRES:

Fire Prevention Week is October 9-15

When you build or buy a home in a forested area, the most critical step in prevention is to create defensible space of 30 feet or more around your home.

10 Steps to Defensible Space

1. Thin tree and brush cover.
2. Dispose of trash and debris left from thinning.
3. Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
4. Stack firewood at least 100 feet away from home.
5. Maintain an irrigated green belt around the home.
6. Mow dry grasses and weeds regularly.
7. Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
8. Trim branches.
9. Clean roof and gutters.
10. Reduce density of surrounding forest.

Excerpts reprinted from Fremont County (CO) Emergency Management





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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.



Top 5 Signs You Are Too Old to Be Trick or Treating

5. You get winded from knocking on the door.
4. You ask for high fiber candy.
3. When someone drops a candy bar in your bag, you lose your balance and fall over.
2. When the door opens you yell, "Trick or..." and can't remember the rest.
1. You're the only Power Ranger in the neighborhood with a walker.



What do you get when you drop a pumpkin?



Home Safe Home This Halloween:

To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.

Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.

Wet leaves should be swept from sidewalks and steps.

Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently bite a trick-or-treater because they are frightened.

Remember that Halloween is for children of all ages, so get involved with your little ghost or goblin! Have a safe and happy Halloween!

SLOPPY BOOS

A very flavorful and unique variation of Sloppy Joes with a Halloween twist. This very low fat dish is perfect to serve to mixed company. Kids will love the sloppiness and adults will appreciate the slightly more "grown up" flavor. It's great on rolls or thick slices of French bread.

- 1 pound ground turkey
- 2 medium chopped onions
- 2 minced garlic cloves
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 cup crushed tomatoes or tomato sauce
- 3 tablespoons dark brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- Salt to taste

In a large heavy saucepan, brown the ground turkey over medium high heat. Reduce the heat to medium, add onions. Cook until onions are almost soft and translucent. Add garlic and cook for additional minute or two. Add remaining ingredients, mix well. Bring mixture to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat, and simmer for 15 minutes. Serve hot. Serves 4-6 Slobbering Souls.