

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

Century 21 Hilltop / LaCarre



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The Hard Working, Nice Guy!

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Decorating Nesting Ideas

Fall in love with your home all over again. It's easy to create welcoming rooms that radiate with ambiance, warmth and comfort throughout your home. Check out these quick ideas for a room makeover.

Color is one of the most inexpensive ways to update your rooms. By simply repainting your walls in warm colors—perhaps a warm red or burnt sienna, you'll have changed the mood and feel of a room almost instantly.

Rearrange your furniture into intimate groupings. Pull furniture away from walls and angle pieces toward one another for visual interest. Create smaller conversation areas by breaking up furnishings into two or more seating areas. Tuck an easy chair and table into a corner for a cozy reading nook.

Accessorize your home with lamplight and lots of candles to enhance the inviting atmosphere. Don't forget scent. Potpourri, scented candles and oils in apple, cinnamon or clove will leave your mouth watering for more. A makeover will definitely leave you and your home feeling warm and toasty all over.

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The Meaning of Roses

February is for lovers. So, why not show someone how much you care by sending a bouquet or floral arrangement this Valentine's Day... or any day this month.

Although traditional, long-stemmed red roses are not the only way to express love and friendship on Valentine's Day. Sweetheart or miniature roses are slightly less expensive than tea roses, but are available in the same range of colors.

Roses symbolize love, but their colors have special meanings. Pick out the color that best expresses your feelings.

- Yellow: Joy, friendship, freedom
- Pink: Happiness, gratitude, appreciation, admiration
- Creams: Thoughtful, charming, gracious
- White: Innocence, purity, secrecy, reverence
- Red: Love, passion, respect, courage



Planting Roses?

Planting times vary all over the country but here's a quick list.

- Northeast, and Eastern coast: March until June, October and November
- North Central: April to June, October and November
- South Central: December to February
- Southwest, and Pacific Coast: December and January
- Pacific Northwest: January to April

FUDGE TRUFFLE CHEESECAKE

- 1½ cups vanilla wafer crumbs
- ½ cup confectioners' sugar
- ⅓ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- ⅓ cup butter, softened
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 4 eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 300 degrees F (150 degrees C).

In a large mixing bowl, mix together crushed vanilla wafers, confectioners' sugar, cocoa, and butter or margarine by hand. Press ingredients into a 9-inch spring form pan.

In the top of a double boiler, melt the chocolate chips, making sure that they are very smooth.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy with an electric mixer. Gradually beat in condensed milk until smooth. Mix in melted chocolate, eggs, and vanilla. Beat with electric mixer on low speed until the ingredients are thoroughly blended. Pour the filling into the prepared crust.

Bake at 300 degrees F (150 degrees C) for 55 minutes. The cake will seem under baked in the center, but will continue to cook after you remove it from the oven.





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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.



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Storing your valuables

If you store valuables at home—anything from jewelry and cash to stamp collections or important documents—you might want to consider installing a residential safe. Safes designed for home use comes in a variety of shapes, sizes and designs, and there’s sure to be one out there that’s perfect for your needs.

Residential safes come in three basic configurations: wall, floor, and freestanding. Many also allow you to choose between dial, keypad, and key-lock mechanisms, and there are even a variety of outside color choices now available.

To protect your valuables, especially papers, from the risk of damage by fire, choose a safe that is fire-rated as well.

Papers begin to scorch at approximately 450 degrees, so you want to look for a safe that is rated to keep the interior at 350 degrees or less for at least one hour.

Wall Safes

Wall safes typically have a door with a non-removable hinge on either the side or the bottom. Smaller wall safes are only a single compartment, while larger ones may have one or two fixed or adjustable interior shelves.

Most home wall safes are designed to slip between the studs for easy installation. Most are only 3 1/2 inches deep so they work with standard 2x4 wall framing, but if you have 2x6 framing you might want to select one of the 5 1/2-inch-deep units to give you a little more interior room. Deeper units are also available.

All that is required for installation is to cut a hole in the wall, insert the safe, and bolt it to the studs from inside. The bolt heads are only accessible when the safe is open, and a built-in flange on the front of the safe covers the cut edges of the hole for a clean installation.

Floor Safes

A floor safe is designed to be set into a recess in the floor. While a little more difficult to install than a wall safe, floor safes have the advantage of being larger and more difficult to physically remove from the house.

To install a floor safe, an opening needs to be cut in the floor at the desired location. Forms are installed, the safe is set in place, and then concrete is poured below and on all four sides of the safe to secure it in place. You may need to contact a contractor.

Small Freestanding Safes

Freestanding safes can be small and unobtrusive, like the ones in some hotel rooms that are provided for guest use. Smaller freestanding safes may be bolted to a wall, shelf, or other structural member.

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The little unremembered acts of kindness and love are the best of a good man’s life.—William Wordsworth