

# **Tim Mallon & Associates**

# The Real Estate Hotline News 2007

Your Real Estate Consultants...for Life!

August 2007

## Hang On Or Let Go?

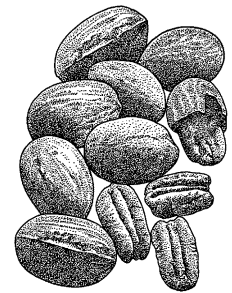
A man's wife offered to cook his favorite dish, which was filled with delicious nuts. He was so happy when he thought of this treat that he eagerly suggested he help his wife with the preparations. "Could you get the nuts from the jar?" she said.

The man reached deep into the jar and grabbed as many nuts as he could fit into his hand. However, when he tried to pull his hand out of the jar, he couldn't. His hand was stuck. His wife pulled on the jar to try and release him, but try as she might, her husband was still stuck.

In desperation they called out to their neighbors for help, and several rushed into the house. One neighbor said, "Don't worry, I know what you need to do. Push your arm farther into the jar."

At first the man resisted; he didn't want to make the situation even worse. But he did what the man asked of him.

"Now, open your hand and let go of the nuts."



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This order upset the husband. He wanted those nuts for the dish his wife was preparing. Reluctantly, he let go.

"Now," the wise neighbor said, "Make your hand as small as possible and pull your arm from the jar."

The husband did as he was told and out popped his arm, as easy as could be. Everyone who had gathered to watch clapped and cheered. Then the neighbor tipped the jar over and let the nuts spill out onto the table.

Sometimes it's good to let go.

# Does Your Vocabulary Need Updating?

In the workplace – and really, anyplace – it's important to communicate clearly and with the most current vocabulary. Here's the latest from those who know:

**Blamestorming:** Sitting around in a group, discussing why a deadline was missed or a project failed, and who was responsible.

**Cube Farm:** An office filled with cubicles.

**Prairie Dogging:** When someone yells or drops something loudly in a cube farm, and people's heads pop up over the walls to see what's going on.

**Mouse Potato:** The online, wired generation's answer to the couch potato.

**SITCOMs:** Single Income, Two Children, Oppressive Mortgage. What Yuppies get into when they have children and one of them stops working to stay home with the kids.

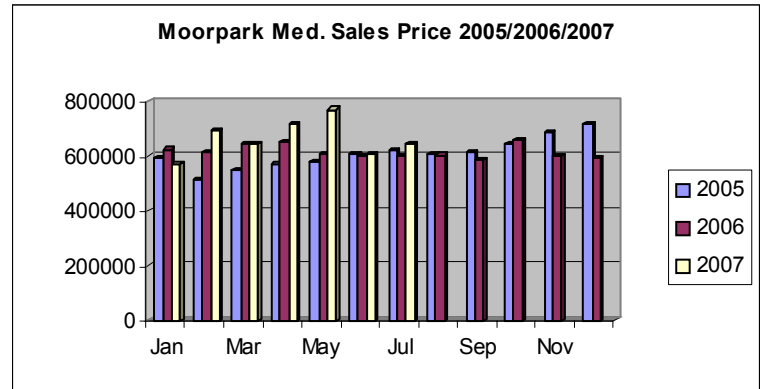
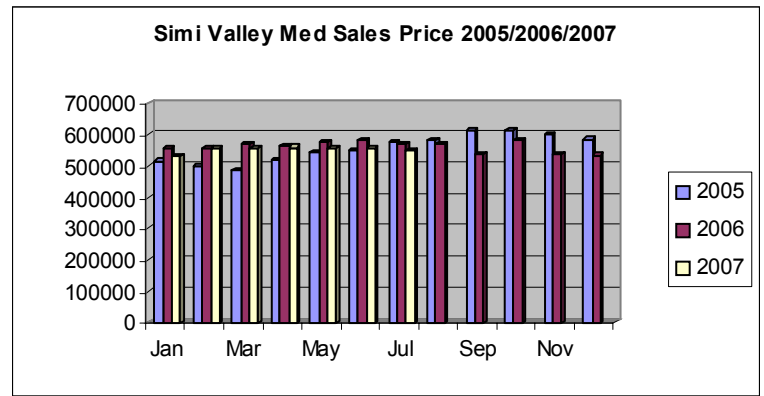
**Stress Puppy:** A person who seems to thrive on being stressed out and whiny.

**Swipeout:** An ATM or credit card that has been rendered useless because the magnetic strip is worn away from extensive use.

**XEROX Subsidy:** Euphemism for swiping free photocopies from one's workplace.

**Irritainment:** Entertainment and media spectacles that are annoying but you find yourself unable to stop watching them.

**OhNoSecond:** That minuscule fraction of time in which you realize that you've just made a BIG mistake (like after hitting "send")



## August Quiz Question

*What is the smallest bone in the human body?*

Email your answer to  
[quizanswer@timmallon.com](mailto:quizanswer@timmallon.com)  
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of nearly 800,000 cars.

The Internet has a wealth of information about CFLs; a good place to start is by going to <http://energystar.custhelp.com> and doing a search for CFL. In Canada, visit <http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/energystar> and click the "Switch and Save" icon.

## Is Your Playground Safe?

Each year, more than 200,000 children go to hospital emergency rooms due to injuries associated with school and neighborhood playground equipment. It's kids who use a playground but it's up to adults to keep a playground safe, so here are some tips from the Consumer Product Safety Commission:

**Make sure surfaces** around playground equipment have at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand, or pea gravel, or have mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials. **Check that protective surfacing extends** at least six feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, surfacing should extend, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.

**Play structures more than 30 inches high** should be spaced at least nine feet apart.

**Check for dangerous hardware**, like open "S" hooks or protruding bolt ends.

**Check for sharp points or edges** in equipment.

**Spaces that could trap children**, such as openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs, should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than nine inches.

**Look out for tripping hazards** such as exposed concrete footings, tree stumps, and rocks.

**Elevated surfaces**, like platforms and ramps, should have guardrails to prevent falls.

**Check your playground regularly** to see that equipment and surfacing are in good condition.

### ***JULY QUIZ ANSWER AND WINNER!***

***Question: If you began spelling out numbers in sequence, beginning with o-n-e, t-w-o, t-h-r-e-e, what is the first number you would come to with an "a" in it?***

**Answer: 1000**

**Congratulations** to Mary Gordon of Simi Valley. She is last month's winner and will receive a \$20 gift catalog.

**Watch for your name here in a coming month!**

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Carefully supervise children on playgrounds to make sure they're safe.

## How To Get Back On Track

We've all heard the phrase "midlife crisis," but what is it? Experts say another name for midlife crisis is "achievement-aspiration gap." Leif Smith (personalbestconsulting.com) explains achievement-aspiration gap as the difference between what you've actually accomplished and what you originally set out to do.

Whether it's a midlife crisis or a crisis occurring at any point in your life, anytime you make excuses for the gap only makes it likely the gap will get wider. Smith says one way to get yourself on track is to ask yourself this question: Am I actively pursuing that which makes me happy?

## "6 Steps to Take When Moving to a Larger Home"

A new report has just been released which identifies the 6 most common and **costly mistakes that homebuyers make** when moving up to a larger home.

Unlike the experience of buying a first home, when you're looking to move-up, and already own a home, there are certain factors that can complicate the situation. It's very important for you to understand these issues before you list your home for sale.

Not only is there the issue of financing to consider, but you also have to sell your present home at exactly the right time in order to avoid either the financial burden of owning two homes or, just as bad, the dilemma of having no place to live during the gap between closings. In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a FREE Special Report entitled "**6 Mistakes to Avoid When Moving Up to a Larger Home**".

The information contained in this report will help you make informed choices before you put your home on the market in anticipation of moving to a larger home. Order this report NOW and find out what you need to know to make your move up to a larger home worry-free and without complications.

**FreeInfoForRealEstate.com**

## Keep Your Eye On The Sky

Did you know that our planet experiences a shower almost every month of the year? A *meteor* shower, that is.

What's a meteor shower? It starts with a *comet*, a small (only a few miles across) chunk of ice, dust, and rocky material traveling through space in an orbit that can bring it close to the Sun and then send it out beyond Pluto. As a comet comes closer to the Sun, it sheds an icy, dusty debris stream that forms a "tail." When Earth travels through the tail, tiny bits of comet debris hit our atmosphere traveling at thousands of miles per hour. If a piece of that debris – now called a *meteoroid* – disintegrates in our atmosphere it makes a vivid streak of light, a *meteor*. As we pass through the dustiest part of the comet's tail, we

### *WELCOME NEW CLIENTS*

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" this past month. We'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

*Deborah Young*

*Sivaganesh & Lakshmi Iyar*

*Vincent Jensen*

*Deborah Sandoval*

*We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.*

often see a meteor shower.

For centuries we've had other names for meteors: "shooting stars" and "falling stars." Today, meteor showers have names such as *Quadrantids* for the January shower, *Aquarids* for July and *Draconids* for October, but *Perseids* in August is probably the most-watched annual meteor shower and this month's event is predicted to be one of the best of the year.

The *Perseids* peak viewing time is the evening of August 12 through dawn on August 13, and the best place to view it is away from the glow of city lights – in state or city parks or other safe, dark sites. Pack a picnic, comfortable chairs or blankets, bug spray, and who knows? Perhaps you'll catch a falling star!

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## What's Your Comfort Food?

What kind of comfort foods do you like? Potato chips or a homemade casserole? According to experts, both types of food, snack types or meal types, can serve as comfort food, and your gender might affect your preference. The Food and Brand Lab of Cornell University surveyed over 1,000 North Americans and found that these were people's favorite comfort foods: potato chips (21%), ice cream (14%), cookies (12%), chocolate (11%), pizza or pasta (11%), steak/burgers (9%), casseroles (8%), soup (7%), vegetables (4%), and salad (3%).

Researchers found that men tended to choose comfort foods that were meal related, while women tended to choose snack-related foods. Women more often selected potato chips, candy and other snack foods, while men preferred foods such as steaks, burgers, pizza and pasta.

What lies behind these preferences? Researchers believe that men may prefer foods that require more labor in preparation as their comfort foods, while women, who often are responsible for food preparation, choose foods that require no work.



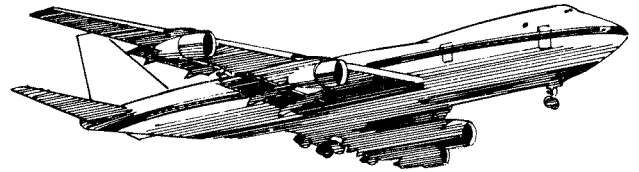
## Some Surprising Reading Statistics

Here are some statistics gathered by The Literacy Company and Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics:

- ✓ More than 20% of adults read at or below the fifth-grade level – well below what they need to earn a living wage.

- ✓ Nearly three out of five prison inmates are illiterate.
- ✓ Eighty-five percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems.
- ✓ More than 75% of those on welfare are illiterate.
- ✓ Over 1 million children drop out of school every year.
- ✓ About 50% of America's unemployed youths are functionally illiterate, meaning they can't carry out simple tasks like balancing a checkbook or reading drug labels.
- ✓ Forty-four million American adults are poor readers or functionally illiterate.
- ✓ Twenty-one million Americans can't read at all; one-fifth of high school graduates can't read their diplomas.

## Travel Time



It may not have seemed this way when you were trying to fly somewhere, but in 2006 the 19 largest U.S. carriers combined made a total of 7,141,922 flights and of that number, 75.5% arrived on time or even early, according to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The airports with the best on-time records? Cincinnati, Salt Lake City, Phoenix and Baltimore. The worst: Newark, LaGuardia, O'Hare and JFK.

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