

## Tim's Neighborhood News 2008

Serving Byrum Woods Carlyle at Falls Lake Chatsworth Hawthorne Swan's Mill & Wood Valley 2/08 Issue



### Introducing My Monthly Neighborhood Newsletter

This is the first of what will become monthly newsletters to the neighborhoods listed just above. I lived in Hawthorne for 8 years and have lived in Carlyle at Falls Lake for over 7.

I know these neighborhoods and I hope you will enjoy reading my newsletters. All I ask is that you give me the opportunity to talk to you

should you ever need the services of a professional Realtor. I want to be a trusted advisor to my clients so that they can make the best decisions. And I hope you will refer people you know so that I can help them. At Coldwell Banker/Howard Perry & Walston we have the people, skills and technology needed to put buyers and sellers together. **Call me 247-4667**

### Tweak your kitchen for upgraded look at a small price

One of the key factors in deciding to remodel your kitchen should be the percentage of the cost you will recoup when selling your home.

A complete redo could cost up to \$50,000. But unless your home would sell for \$500,000 or more, you would have little chance of recapturing that investment.

When considering what you might do to make your kitchen more enjoyable and convenient, here are a few less-costly projects.

\* New kitchen appliances are a good investment and give a good bang for your buck.

\* For new cabinets, don't order custom-made. Good cabinets are available at home improvement stores.

\* Kitchen islands are nice, but not all kitchens are large enough for them. TV advisor Bob Villa recommends adding an interesting or small kitchen table

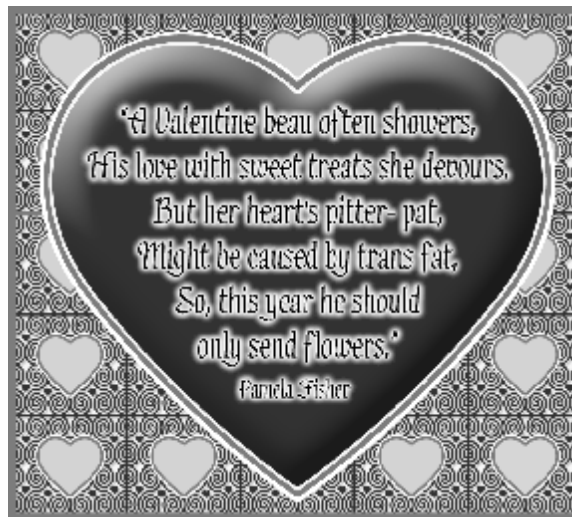
instead. It will provide extra work space or an informal dining area and be much less expensive.

\* It doesn't cost much to tear down a wall if you want a bigger kitchen. Don't do it by sacrificing storage space.

\* New lighting can be a dramatic improvement. Add energy-efficient recessed task lights above work areas and eating places. Create lighting that can be either bright or atmospheric.

\* Buy a new faucet. Consider a high end model and top brand.

\* For countertops, Villa recommends solid granite. It lasts for many years and doesn't scratch or stain easily.



### Problems and privileges of being a 'leapling's

Leap Year babies born Feb. 29 always had the pleasure of slow aging. A 40-year-old could proudly claim to be 10.

But in the early 1990s they also had another problem: Computers did not believe them. While most databases now recognize Feb. 29 as a valid date, early versions did not. This made for quite a few miscues

with drivers licenses and other legal documents

To prevent confusion, doctors have often counseled mothers of children born Feb. 29 to pick either Feb 28 or March 1 as their child's birthdate.

Historically, women have been free to propose marriage to their love on Feb. 29. A postcard with a Feb. 29 cancellation is considered a collector's item.

## Ask the Expert



By Tim McBrayer

**Q** We have outgrown our house, but wonder if the timing is right for buying a larger home. What do you think?

**A** The timing is right. It could certainly be to your advantage to buy now.

In most cases, buying and selling becomes a decision with several factors to consider. First, if you are being crowded out of your place, you need to move forward in any case.

Second, if you are interested in getting the most out of your home, you have to calculate whether it will sell for more or less in another year.

Buying and selling at the same time is a two-sided situation. Even if your home sells for less than you want, the one you buy will probably cost less than before in the same market.

When you look at the situation in that light, the two could very well cancel each other out.

In the case of buying a larger home, finding an excellent price could put you well ahead of the game.

If you want to sell your

## Crazy Eights Sudoku

Sudoku is gaining popularity all across Europe and the United States. Only logic and patience are required. No math is involved. Simply make sure that each 3x3 square region has a number 1 through 9 and that the number only occurs once. Each column and row of the large grid must have only one instance of the numbers 1 through 9.

Here's a tip for playing. We'll call the 3x3 squares "regions." With a highlighter, color in all the rows in the large grid and all the columns in the larger grid that have an 8 in them. We chose 8 because there are several of them in the puzzle. Finished?

Now observe. In the upper middle region, what is the only possible location for the 8?

		3	1	5		7		
7	4						8	
		8		9		3		
		2			4			
3	7			1			5	6
			3			2		
		5		2		4		
	8						3	1
		9		7	1	5		



## Trivia Teaser: You gotta have heart

1. Who was the director and star of the action movie "Braveheart"?  
a-Mel Gibson, b-Tom Hanks, c-Kevin Costner, d-Leonardo Di-Caprio.

2. Whose portrait appears on the U.S. military decoration called the

Purple Heart? a-Marquis de Lafayette, b-George Washington, c-Abraham Lincoln, d-Patrick Henry.

3. The first successful human heart transplant took place in 1967 in what country? a-Sweden, b-Great Britain, c-South Africa, d-Canada.

4. Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On" is the theme song for which 1997 blockbuster movie? a-"Men in Black", b-"The Matrix", c-"Fools Rush In", d-"Titanic".

5. The Cole Porter song "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" was introduced in the Broadway musical

"Leave It to Me" by what female performer? a-Ethel Merman, b-Mary Martin, c-Judy Garland, d-Gwen Verdon



### BONUS TRIVIA QUESTION

6. What book and movie character said "Hearts will never be practical until they can be made unbreakable"? a-Peter Pan, b-The Wizard of Oz, c-Forrest Gump, d-Ebenezer Scrooge.

Email the correct answer and win! **YOUR EMAIL@YOUREMAIL.COM** (don't forget to put whatever prize you decide on here.)

Trivia Answers: 1-A, Mel Gibson; 2-B, George Washington; 3-C, South Africa; 4-D, Titanic; 5-B, Mary Martin.

home to come up with a down payment, you are lucky if you live in an area where home prices haven't come down very much. This is the case in the Triangle marker.

The Standard & Poor's 20-City comparison index shows that, nationwide, home prices are down just 4.5 percent from their July 2006 peak. That means a \$200,000 home would sell for about \$191,000 and a \$300,000 home for about \$286,500.

It appears that the more you can spend for your larger home, the more you will save. While every transaction is different, in this particular example, you would save about \$9,000 on the lower priced property and \$13,500 on the higher

priced.

With my help and some diligent searching, you could do even better.

Call me if I can be of assistance: **247-4667**

9	2	3	1	5	8	7	6	4
7	4	1	2	3	6	9	8	5
5	6	8	4	9	7	3	1	2
8	5	2	7	6	4	1	9	3
3	7	4	9	1	2	8	5	6
1	9	6	3	8	5	2	4	7
6	1	5	8	2	3	4	7	9
2	8	7	5	4	9	6	3	1
4	3	9	6	7	1	5	2	8

## Look up! The latest in home trends is right above your head

If it's "just up there" and doing nothing to affect your home's mood and theme, it's time to capture the huge design effects a ceiling can offer.

\* Put in a ceiling fans, the decoration of choice for many homes. They come in a wide variety of styles and materials that can coordinate with present decor and tie a room together.

\* Add a tray ceiling, a touch of class for many rooms. Tray ceilings extend the ceiling down from several inches to more than a foot. The style adds height to traditional ceilings by angling the four corners upward to a smaller, raised area in the center.

\* Move the ceiling up. In new homes ceiling styles have changed in recent years. Home builders report that instead of high, vaulted ceilings, buyers are more often choosing to add a foot or two to their ceilings. Moving them up helps to make a modestly-sized room more spacious. It's also an energy saver as opposed to a vaulted ceiling

Designers say aesthetic elements now have to share the spotlight with functionality plus the effect of projected heating and cooling costs.

## Cities say tap water is best

In times past, many homes kept a big bottle of tap water in the refrigerator. Those days are gone.

Instead, you will find gallon bottles bought at the store or half a dozen smaller bottles made of plastic and held together with a heavy plastic strip. Though bottled water is expensive, most makers readily admit that their



product is filtered tap water. The phenomenal growth of water sales isn't just costing consumers a lot of money, it stresses the environment. It takes oil to make and transport those plastic bottles. Fewer than a quarter of the plastic water bottles are recycled, leaving billions of pounds of them in landfills. It can stress the water supply where the water is bottled, leaving less for local uses.

Water is one of the healthiest drinks, and in the U.S., tap water is generally very good. While we are on community well water the quality is considered good. Still, if you prefer filtered water, inexpensive faucet attachments and pitchers can deliver an excellent H2O.

### **Market Snapshot Report**

Do you want the exact real estate market information you are looking for: current real estate trends, in your neighborhood. Then go to my website and sign up for the **FREE Market Snapshot Report**.

# Free Family Flicks

Don't forget to go to [www.FreeFamilyFlicks](http://www.FreeFamilyFlicks) and register

to attend our monthly **Free Family Flicks**. Each month we'll show a favorite kids and family movie at **Carmike 15 Cinema** off Millbrook Road in north Raleigh. . Seating is very

limited so be

ter today. All

**10:30am**. You

guest pass for

This month on

**23rd** we'll be



sure and regis-  
movies start at  
must bring your  
free admission.

**February**

showing

## Finding Nemo

## Remembering Washington's love for his home

**W**hen you think of George Washington, you might picture him comforting his starving troops on the bleak and frozen Christmas of 1777 at Valley Forge.

But the heart of this great man was not on the battlefield or in the halls of government. His heart was at home. It was where he longed to be. Mount Vernon was his anchor, and the hope of getting back to it drove him ever onward. History tells us that when he was offered the first presidency of the United States, he had to be convinced to take it. He really wanted to go home.

In the end, Washington lived at Mt. Vernon for a total of 45 years.

First known as Little Hunting Creek Plantation, it was originally granted to Washington's great grandfather John Washington in 1674.

Washington inherited the property upon the death of his brother Lawrence's widow in 1761.

At that time, the farmhouse consisted of four rooms, a central passage on the first floor, and three bedrooms on the second.

The process of enlarging and improving the house began in the years before Washington's marriage in 1759, when he raised the structure from one-and-a-half to two-and-a-half stories and extensively redecorated the interior. The north and south wings of the house were begun just before the start of the Revolutionary War.



Be sure to sign up for the new and **FREE Home Tracker** service being offered by Coldwell Banker and Howard Perry & Walston.

Just go to

[www.TriangleHomeTracker.com](http://www.TriangleHomeTracker.com)

LEAP YEARS: 2000, 2004, 2008, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2024, 2028, 2032, 2036, 2040, 2044, 2048, 2052, 2056, 2060, 2064, 2068, 2072, 2076, 2080, 2084, 2088, 2092, 2096.



**Featured Listing**  
**8448 Montavista Lane in**  
**Wake Forest**  
**4 BR 4.5 Bath**  
**Gourmet Kitchen**  
**.62 acres**  
**1st Floor Master**  
**Library/office**  
**Large REC Room**  
**Hardwood Floors**  
**Lots of storage!**  
**Only**  
**\$445,900**

# February 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>American Heart Month</i>					1	2 Candlemas & Groundhog
3 Super Bowl	4 MARDI GRAS	5 Mardi Gras	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9 Golden Dragon Parade
10 Grammy	11	12	13 Valentine's Day	14 Valentines Day	15	16
17	18 President's	19	20	21	22	23 FREE Family Flicks
24 Academy	25	26 Spay Day	27	28	29 LEAP YEAR DAY	



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