



Kristine Beck  
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# at Home



July 2008 Volume 6

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## Happy 4th!

I hope you enjoy this month's copy of my *At Home* newsletter. It's filled with helpful information for you as a homeowner.

My time as a Real Estate Professional enlightens me with keen insights to my client's needs and challenges, and I want you to know that my experience is always at your disposal. Feel free to call me anytime!

**262-770-6475**

## Moving House Made Easy by Lisa Gagne



**Trash Your Stash** — Moving unwanted items into your new home will not only increase the amount of effort you put into packing and unpacking, it will also add to the overall time involved in your move. Begin by clearing out the loft, garage and cellar to get rid of anything that you haven't used in at least the last twelve months. You can sell your items in a garage sale, or on Craigslist or eBay. If you don't have time for the extra hassle, donate them to a local charity shop.

**Tell the Tradesmen** - The majority of us remember to tell our family and friends not only when we're moving but also where we're moving.

However, it's easy to forget about people like the doctor, the dentist, the vet and even the phone company. Write a list of everyone you need to tell and cross them out when you do.

**Removal Men** - There are two options for moving house; you can hire a van and do the job yourself or get a professional removal company to do all the hard work for you. If you plan to take the first option, get a van with a tail-lift—a real bonus for those extra heavy items. Also, get on good terms with your local grocer, as you'll need a good supply of cardboard boxes—not to mention bubble wrap or old newspapers to pack those fragile glass items.

**Packing** - Clearly label your boxes by the room that they will go into and pack them into the van in an order convenient for yourself. Don't forget that the first box packed into the van will be the last one removed at your new home. Lastly, make sure to pack in snacks, the kettle, the coffee or tea and a couple of cups.

If you choose to hire a professional removal company, they will do all of the work for you. However, if you're working on a strict budget or if you prefer to pack your own belongings to reduce breakages, the first option is the one for you.



God Bless the USA!

## In Proud Recognition of:

**Dean Chvilicek-Army, Bob Johnson-Marines Corps,  
Amie Kogutkiewicz-Air Force, and Corey Vyvyan-Navy**

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING OUR COUNTRY!!**

## Should You Consider Buying a Home in the Current Market? by Deanna Sletten

The current real estate market is definitely a buyer's market. With the high availability of homes on the market and interest rates at historical lows, this is an opportune time for buyers to purchase the home of their dreams at an affordable monthly payment.

If you have been saving to purchase a first home and have a good credit score and very little debt, then this is the perfect time for you to buy a home. Not only will you have a variety of homes to choose from, some that may not have been affordable if the market had been different, but you will also be able to obtain an affordable loan payment at a low fixed-rate interest rate.

Be cautious, however, not to buy beyond your means. Consider all the costs of home ownership, such as upkeep, and taxes and insurance, before you buy.

This is a great time for renters with a stable income to consider purchasing a home. With so many homes on the market, many due to foreclosures, you may be able to find an affordable home that requires very little down. You could even look into purchasing a small home, holding it until the market turns upward, then selling it so that you can move up into a larger home.

Newly retired couples, who have their home paid for and a good retirement, may find this is a good time to purchase a vacation home. With the good interest rates and the lower home prices, they may find a good deal that they otherwise may not have been able to afford.

For those who have money to tie up, this may be a good time to purchase a home as an investment or rental. As a precaution, it is important that you can afford to hold on to the property for a while. Use your purchase as a rental property for a few years. When you're ready to sell it, you'll find you've made a good investment.



### Prudential Southeast Realty News



## Featured Home of the Month

This fully remodeled single family home features:

- new roof/solid brick exterior
- central air/newer mechanicals
- 3 bedrooms/2 full baths
- spacious remodeled eat-in kitchen
- new cabinetry & fixtures throughout
- all new appliances included
- new carpet and laminate flooring
- partially finished basement/extra bedroom
- original hardwood flooring in bedrooms
- nice size back yard/semi-private
- 1.5 car garage/plenty of storage
- close to public transportation/quiet neighborhood



**2112 Summit Avenue  
Racine, WI**

Move-in condition, perfect starter home—practically maintenance free! Absolutely adorable inside. Call today for a private showing—motivated sellers!

**\$123,900.00**

## The Green House Effect by Heather Lee



**What's good for the Earth is good for your health. How to get an eco-friendly abode—fast**



YOU RECYCLE REGULARLY, use compact fluorescent lightbulbs, and try to buy organic. But we're betting there's a lot more you can do to turn your home into a healthier, safer, and greener haven. Do you know how to boost the Earth-friendly quotient of your fridge? What's the simplest way to keep the new-rug smell and new-rug toxins out of your lungs? Each month we'll feature a question from the eco-home quiz and where you can find the answers. If you don't score in the green zone, consider the easy and smart switches that will make a big impact on the planet—and your health.

### This Month's Eco-home Question:

#### Which spews more pollution?

- A. **Your car**
- B. **Your snowblower**
- C. **Your lawn mower**

**ANSWER:** C. According to the EPA, a typical gas-powered lawn mower emits as much pollution in 1 hour as 11 cars. And though snowblowers came in third, they're not exactly easy on the environment. They put about 2 pounds of carbon monoxide into the atmosphere per hour.

**GREEN FIX:** Trade your gas mower for a lightweight, push-operated reel model (\$214; [www.peoplepoweredmachines.com](http://www.peoplepoweredmachines.com)) which burns calories, not carbon. When winter comes, use a Wovel (\$120; [www.wovel.com](http://www.wovel.com)), a wheelbarrow-like shovel that lets you clear your driveway without straining your back.

**Health Bonus:** You'll cut down on noise pollution: Lawn mowers use about 90 decibels of eardrum-rattling sound, and snowblowers about 105. Prolonged exposure to noise above 85 decibels damages the hair cells in the inner ear; chronic exposure is linked to increased anxiety levels, elevated blood pressure, and disrupted sleep.

## How to Keep Beautiful Blooms Fresh by ARA



*Dr. Bridget Behe, also known as the Flower Doctor, is a professor in the Department of Horticulture at Michigan State University and hosts "Ask Bridget", a question and answer section on the Web site [www.FlowrMD.com](http://www.FlowrMD.com). Behe offers her top tricks on how to prolong the life of your beautiful blooms.*

- Use the commercial flower food/preservative solution that comes with the flowers and carefully follow the directions.
- Before placing the flowers into water, re-cut the stems by removing one to two inches with a sharp knife or scissors.
- If any leaves from the stems fall below the water line, remove them.
- Keep flowers out of direct sunlight and away from heat sources and drafts.

Log on to [www.FlowrMD.com](http://www.FlowrMD.com) for more information or to e-mail a question to the Flower Doctor.

**CALL TODAY TO  
ADVERTISE YOUR  
BUSINESS OR SERVICE  
HERE!**

Prudential  
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*Providing Value in  
Your Community!*



There are many qualities and skills that go into being an excellent real estate professional; integrity, in-depth community and market knowledge, marketing savvy, effective negotiation skills, technological know-how and a high-quality professional network, all of which are hallmarks of how I work.

That said, in my experience as a Real Estate Professional, I've found that providing the very best service is essentially about **putting my clients first**. This means keeping myself accessible, being a good listener as well as a good communicator, and responding quickly to your needs. This "client first" philosophy has always been my approach and it requires me to continually improve my skills and ways of doing business.

## Recipe of the Month

### *Raspberry Custard Brulee*

#### Ingredients

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 1 cup fat-free milk
- 1 beaten egg
- 2 tablespoons light dairy sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 cups fresh raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, or halved strawberries

#### Directions

1. For custard, in a small saucepan thoroughly combine 2 tablespoons of the sugar and the cornstarch; add the milk and egg. Cook and stir with a wooden spoon over medium heat just until the mixture begins to bubble. (Do not overcook.) Immediately pour the custard into a small

bowl; let mixture cool about 5 minutes. Whisk sour cream into custard; add vanilla. Cover and chill custard for up to 24 hours.

2. To serve, divide berries evenly among four goblets or dessert dishes. Spoon chilled custard over berries. (If necessary, thin custard with a little milk before spooning over berries.) Set aside.

3. For topping, in a heavy small skillet or saucepan heat remaining 2 tablespoons sugar over medium-high heat until sugar begins to melt shaking skillet occasionally to heat evenly (do not stir). Reduce heat to low; cook sugar until melted and golden, stirring as necessary with a wooden spoon. Quickly drizzle caramelized sugar over each custard. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 servings.



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Call 262-770-6475 for all  
your Real Estate Needs!

I'm on the Web!  
[www.kristinebeck.com](http://www.kristinebeck.com)