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Florence's

Service For Life! ®

Insider Tips for Healthy, Wealthy and Happy Living

Inside This Issue...

- **Holiday Dangers For Children...**
- **Internet Webs Family Together...**
- **Fun Facts and Laughs: Find A Job After 50, Dumb Moves With Smart Phones, And More...**
- **Trivia Challenge: Win [[Free Movie Tickets For Two]]**
- **Real Estate Q&A: How Can I Make My Home Appear Larger?**

If you're not already a subscriber to my free e-newsletter [email me to sign-up](#)

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Are your kids or young relatives safe during the holidays? Too many children end up in the emergency room during the holiday season. In today's *Service For Life!* ® Free consumer newsletter you'll learn five of the most common dangers to keep your kids or grandkids safe.

Here's what's happening in your neighborhood: The following beach and marina sales stats are for Mandalay Shores, Hollywood Beach, Silverstrand Beach, Mandalay Bay, Seabridge, Westport, the Colony and HarborWalk as well as C.I. Waterfront Homes. Comparing the previous 2 year's closings

Beach Marina Properties Closed Escrows

Closed Escrows				Active Listings
Month	2009	2010	2011	as of 1st of Month
January	11	18	19	189
February	10	29	15	167
March	11	21	22	183
April	13	16	19	194
May	14	13	25	195
June	20	26	15	198
July	16	18	18	190
August	12	16	22	171
September	25	19	21	162
October	20	16	23	154
November	30	12		141
December	15	20		

In the last 2 weeks I closed escrow on a boat dock home in Mandalay Bay as well as 2222 Cannes Square in The colony, which sold for \$730,000.

Be sure to check out my Blog...go to BchRealEstate.com and click on the Blog in the menu. My goal is to keep everybody up to date on what is happening at the Channel Islands Harbor and the surrounding beach areas.

Enjoy your online version of Service for Life. You'll get a list of websites to stay connected to your loved ones, plus funny jokes, a trivia challenge, and lots more.

Florence

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PS. If you're considering buying a home soon pick up a copy of my Free Consumer Report called **"8 Secrets For Saving Thousands When Finding, Buying and Financing Your Next Home"**. Simply email me at: **florence@bchrealestate.com**, or calling me at: **(805) 701-8410**

Today's Brain Teaser . . .

Which is heavier: a pound of gold or a pound of feathers?

(see answer below)

Holiday Dangers For Children . . .

With families gathering, special occasions and all the delicious treats, the holiday season creates precious memories that can last an entire lifetime. Unfortunately, the emergency rooms become part of the tradition for too many kids. Watch out for these dangers:

Poisonous plants like mistletoe, poinsettias and holly are commonly used for holiday decor, but they should be kept out of the reach of kids. Plant poisoning symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and skin rashes. If you have any suspicion of plant poisoning call your doctor or the National Poison Center: (800) 222-1222. And, yes, that's a real phone number!

Alcohol poisoning of children is common during the holiday season. Parents often host parties where alcohol is served and the kids imitate the adults. Small amounts of an adult beverage can make a kid "drunk" and in danger of injuring themselves. Remove all empty and partially finished cups as soon as possible to keep them away from small hands.

Food poisoning can also pose a potential threat to children. Practice food safety by washing hands, dishes, cutting boards and utensils with particular care toward items that come in contact with raw meat or poultry. Refrigerate leftover food quickly to avoid contamination.

Choking and swallowing hazards are everywhere during the holidays. Tree ornaments, icicles, tinsel and small toys can be partially swallowed and end up blocking the child's airway. If it is small enough to get inside a small child's mouth, it is too small to leave out.

Cuts, skin irritation, or eye damage can be caused by the needles of holiday trees, angel hair (made from spun glass) and ornament hangers.

No one wants to remember a trip to the emergency room over the holidays. Being aware of fire hazards, increased accidents during busy shopping times, and watching for the dangers listed above should help you and your family have a safe and happy holiday season.

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Know Someone Having Trouble Paying Their Mortgage?

Please tell them not to work with their bank or sell their home without my Free consumer guide, **"28 Facts Every Struggling Homeowner Should Know."** My exclusive report will explain all their options to

avoid foreclosure and improve the situation fast. Just email me by [clicking here](#), or call me at: **(805) 701-8410** anytime, 24 hours, to request a copy for a friend.

Internet Webs Family Together . . .

If relatives live far away or children are grown it is hard to keep in touch with the extended family that means so much to us. There are now dozens of great sharing tools online that can help you stay connected with your loved ones. Try a few of these family-linking tools:

History is easily shared with www.myheritage.com, www.geni.com, or even Facebook with applications like www.familybuilder.com. To research family history, try: www.ancestry.com or www.familysearch.com.

Photos no longer need to be handed around the kitchen table to recall the good times you have shared. Leading the pack is www.flickr.com where you can share memories captured in pictures. Other sites to explore are: www.snapfish.com, www.keepandshare.com and www.photobucket.com.

Reunions are made easier with sites like www.family-reunion.com. Find tips for planning the perfect family event at www.reunionsmag.com, www.familyreuniontips.com and www.familyreunion.com.

Multifunction sites like www.myfamily.com, www.familycrossings.com and www.familydetails.com allow you to stay connected with event calendars, a family blog, a family address book, photo and video sharing, settings for privacy, social media integration, mobile apps to access anywhere, and extensive archive ability to keep your family memories safe.

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Happy Thanksgiving

One of my favorite
Thanksgiving traditions
is remembering all the
people who have helped
me along the way.

**Thanks so much for
your support!**

**From my family to yours
I wish you all the joys
of Thanksgiving.**

Fun Facts and Laughs . . .

Find A Job After 50 . . .

An increasing number of companies are noticing the value of their mature employees. You can learn which companies are hiring team members over 50 by visiting www.aarp.org, then search for "Best Employers."

Dumb Moves With Smart Phones . . .

We all are aware of the stupidity of texting while driving. Yet thousands are injured or killed because people think they are too busy to wait until they reach a safe place to send or respond to a text. If you feel strongly about not texting while driving, take the pledge at: www.txtresponsibly.org

Have A Laugh – Funny Misprints . . .

- Hot listing just pooped up (**popped**)
- Has god bones (**good**)
- Ice warm fireplace (**nice**)
- Home feces south (**faces**)
- Great guy at \$298/foot (**buy**)

Here's A Free, Valuable Resource . . .

Now You Can Search The Home Market, Get Helpful Community Information, AND Receive Important Resources For Saving Time And Money When Buying Or Selling At **www.BchRelEstate.com**

Trivia Challenge for the Month...

"Who Else Wants To Win a \$75 Gift Certificate for The Italian Job?"

Guess who won last month's Trivia Question? I'm pleased to announce the lucky winner of last month's quiz. And the winner is...drum roll please: Laura Garfield of The Colony was the first to correctly answer my quiz question.

What animal has the most taste buds?

- a) Shark b) Elephant
- c) Catfish d) Giraffe

The answer is c) Catfish. They have taste buds both inside their mouth and on the outside of their body. Combined, catfish actually have more than 20 times the number of taste buds as humans. So, let's move on to this month's trivia question.

Which U.S. National Park had the most visitors in 2010?

- a) Great Smoky Mountains
- b) Yellowstone
- c) Grand Canyon
- d) Yosemite

EMAIL ME AT : florence@bchrealestate.com OR Call Me At (805) 701-8410 And You Could Be One Of My Next Winners!

Brain Teaser Answer:

The **feathers** are heavier because they are measured in 16 ounce Avordupois pounds. Gold is measured in 12 ounce Troy pounds.

Thanks For Thinking of Me!

Did you know I can help you or any of your friends or family save time and money when buying or selling a home? Thanks for keeping me in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word about my services.

Real Estate Q & A . . .

Q. How can I make my home appear larger?

A. There are many tricks to fool the eye and make each room in your home to appear larger than its actual dimensions. Try a few of these tips:

Use mirrors to reflect the focal point of your room. The mirror will give the space depth, echo the beauty of your focal point and reflect light to make the room much brighter.

Lighting will expand the look of the space too. If you don't have ample sunlight, add some lighting fixtures along the outside perimeter of the room to add color and focus attention in the distance.

Coordinate the color of furniture to blend with the soft, light hues of your wall surfaces. The monochromatic color scheme avoids the choppy look of contrasting colors and opens up the space.

Clear the clutter from the room. Having fewer things that could distract the eye makes the room seem more spacious. Narrow your decor items to only the things you love. Without the excess clutter, you will have a relaxed, open area that appears inviting and roomy.

If you have any real estate questions, or need capable and trustworthy representation, please call me at **(805) 701-8410** or email me at **florence@bchrealestate.com**.

THANK YOU... for reading my Service For Life![®] personal newsletter. I wanted to produce a newsletter that has great content and is fun and valuable to you. Help your friends get more out of life by forwarding this email to them...

Share this issue with family and friends



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