

Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

The Dulcie Crawford Group



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Short Sale and Foreclosure Resource Specialist

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Spring Home Checkup

April showers may bring May flowers, but they can also bring leaky basements, moldy walls and costly cleanup.

Regular maintenance on the outside of your home could save you thousands of dollars. Jeff Sciaudone, Director of Engineering for the Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS) says, "You can take a few hours to do a Spring maintenance check—or you can wait for a storm to come along and show you where your home's weaknesses are."



IBHS recommends taking the following steps:

- Make sure gutters are clean and stable. This ensures proper drainage and lessens the chance they will become flying debris in high wind.
- While you're there, examine fascia or soffit boards. If they are rotting or soft, they may allow rain into your attic or atop interior walls.
- Make sure downspouts are sloping away from the house and carrying water at least five feet away from foundation walls.
- Lawn sprinkler heads should not spray the walls of the house. This moisture can lead to unwanted growths, wall failure and other destructive moisture problems.
- Examine your roof carefully, looking for worn, curled or missing shingles.
- If you can't inspect your roof easily, your attic is the next best place to check for problems. Look for moisture or surface discoloration—and do this every time you

go into the attic. The earlier you find a roofing problem, the better.

- Examine window and door flashing, seals or weatherstripping. If sealants around those openings are no longer pliable and continuous, reseal and caulk them.
- When planning home improvements, consider products and techniques that will increase your home's disaster resistance. Choose roofing materials, for example, that are rated for wind, fire and impact-resistance.

Source: Institute for Business and Home Safety. IBHS is a national nonprofit initiative of the insurance industry to reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, economic losses and human suffering caused by natural disasters.

http://www.weather.com/outdoors/home-improvement/home-tips/spring-checkup_2010-08-24

Top Home Decor Trends for 2011

What's old is new again

Whether they're genuine period pieces being repurposed or home furnishings reproduced from popular items from the '50s, '60s or '70s, vintage will be hot this year.

A spectrum of colors

Look for soothing aqua and green hues that draw their inspiration from the verdigris deposits found on weathered copper statues. For outdoor furniture and accessories, sassy colors like lime green, bold orange and Caribbean blue are on trend.

A trend that will stick around

Wall coverings make a dramatic, yet cost-effective statement. With their innovative new SmartStick repositionable wall murals, Murals Your Way (muralsyourway.com) has made it easy for homeowners, renters and even college students to add a fresh new look to indoor and outdoor walls, floors, doors and windows.

Green continues to be keen

Products and materials such as bronze, copper, clay, cotton, linen and hemp—which are environmentally friendly and can be repurposed or recycled at the end of their lifespan—will be in high demand. (ARA)



Celebrate Arbor Day—Plant a Tree on April 29th!

- Trees provide shade to keep us and our homes cool on hot summer days.
- Trees give off vital oxygen through photosynthesis which you and I and animals need to breathe.
- Trees provide protection from the wind.
- Trees reduce noise pollution.
- Trees give us products such as: chewing gum, crayons, soap, shatterproof glass, suntan lotion, cork, dyes, life-saving drugs, writing paper, syrup, perfume, pencils, firewood, building materials, and much, much more.

For more information visit: <http://www.arborday.org/>

APRIL

National Garden Month

April 1st: April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day

April 22nd: Earth Day

April 24th: Easter Sunday

April 29th: Arbor Day



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13+ Years Professional Experience, Native Las Vegas, Consistent Top Producer. We can help you list or buy a home. Call us today!

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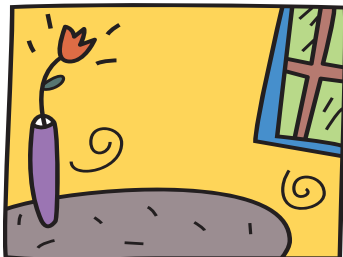
Repair, Replace, Relax with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with "peace of mind" when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home's major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners' problems and needs.



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.



This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent. These materials contain information and articles obtained from third parties. FNHW does not endorse the recommendations of any third party nor guarantee the information provided is complete or correct.



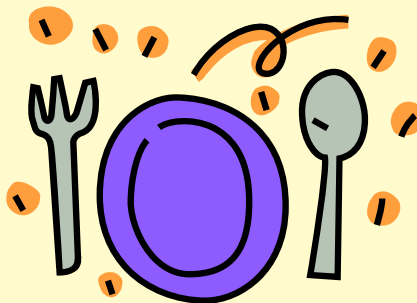
Celebrate Earth Day with These Natural Air Freshener Alternatives

Commercial air fresheners don't remove odors, they just mask them—and coat your nasal passages in the process, which diminishes your sense of smell. If you have a stubborn odor lingering in your home, try one of these natural air freshening alternatives instead:

- Place small bowls of baking soda in bathrooms, kitchens and hall closets
- Grind lemon or orange peels in the garbage disposal
- Simmer cinnamon or cloves in a few inches of water on the stovetop
- Open your windows to keep the air circulating and to prevent odors from lingering

http://www.holidays.net/earthday/natural_cleaning.htm

SURPRISE YOUR FAMILY THIS APRIL FOOL'S DAY WITH A SPAGHETTI TORTE



Bet you've never had spaghetti like this before! It looks like a fancy torte, but it's still the same pasta, sauce and cheese combo that the whole family loves.

What you'll need:

- A large springform pan, generously greased
- Your favorite pasta sauce
- Mozzarella or provolone cheese
- Ricotta cheese or more pasta sauce for "frosting"

1. Toss your favorite pasta sauce with about a pound of cooked pasta.
2. Gently fold a couple of beaten eggs into the pasta mixture, and then spread half of this mixture into the well-greased springform pan.
3. Sprinkle the pasta with shredded provolone or mozzarella cheese, and cover the cheese with the remaining pasta mixture.
4. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° F (175° C) for 30 minutes.
5. Allow the spaghetti "cake" to rest about 15 minutes before unmolding it from the springform pan.
6. "Frost" this tasty cake with ricotta cheese or drizzle it with more pasta sauce just before serving.

