

Pratt Connection

~ News to Help You Save Time and Money ~
www.cleveland-home-finder.com

Proudly Serving Cuyahoga, Lorain, Medina and Summit Counties

IN THIS ISSUE:

What If Tomorrow
Never Comes...

Do You Ignore Good
Advice?

"Jargon Generating"

Holly's Household
Corner: Bright Ways
to Save Money

Gardens and Green-
houses: Caring for
Your Yard During
Drought

Welcome!

Successfully Sold!

Happy Homeowners!

Thanks for Your
Referrals!

What Are You
Waiting For?

Positive Thinking
Corner

If You're in the Market

July/Aug 2007
Volume 5, Issue 4

What If Tomorrow Never Comes...



If I knew it would be the last time I'd see you walk out the door, I'd give you a hug and kiss and call you back for yet one more.

If I knew it would be the last time, I would take a minute or two, to stop and say "I love you" instead of assuming you know I do.

If I knew it would be the last time, would I be there to share your day? Oh, I'm sure you'll have so many more, I can let this one slip away.

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you and I hope we never forget

That tomorrow isn't promised to anyone, young or old alike, and today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved one tight.

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day

That you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug, or a kiss, and you were too busy to grant someone what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear. Tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say "I'm sorry," "Please forgive me," "Thank you," or "It's okay..."

And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

Are you putting off something important?

Do You Ignore Good Advice?

Many people in our lives are willing to help us, says Don't Worry, Make Money author Richard Carlson. The problem, he says, is that most of us are completely unwilling to take another person's advice - no matter how sincerely helpful and competent the advice-giver is. Why? Carlson says that most people suffer from stubbornness, don't listen to others, and absolutely refuse to take advice.

What's the big deal? Carlson says you're losing time - throwing away valuable shortcuts by refusing what other people are freely offering. The world is practically bursting with people bringing riches to your door in the form of good advice. And what do most people do? Slam the door in the advice-giver's face.

Carlson suggests doing yourself a favor and showing some humility. The next time someone gives you a piece of advice and your impulse is not to take it, stop and consider whether the advice is what you need or not. If the advice is good, make sure you tell the person who's giving it to you that you think it's good. Make the other person happy in the process of taking the advice. You may be very glad you did.

"Jargon Generating"

Are you using trite phrases with your colleagues or staff? Are you telling them to "think outside of the box" or to "get your ducks in a row" or to "blue sky it" for awhile? If you're guilty of using this kind of language, you should stop, says conversation expert Loren Ekroth in the newsletter Conversation Matters. Instead of making you sound like you know what you're talking about, which is probably your goal, you come off sounding insincere and possibly foolish. Instead, speak simply and clearly about the matter at hand and leave out the jargon.

Holly's Household Corner



"Bright Way to Save Money"

Saving money might be as easy as saying "CFL" the next time you purchase light bulbs.

"CFL" stands for "compact fluorescent lamp," but it's actually a light bulb that operates differently from a regular, or incandescent light bulb. Regular bulbs create light by heating a filament inside the bulb; the heat makes the filament white-hot, producing the light you see. A CFL contains a gas that produces invisible ultraviolet (UV) light when the gas is "excited" by electricity. The UV light hits the white coating inside the fluorescent bulb and the coating changes it into light you can see.

Now, don't confuse a CFL with those overhead fluorescent tube lights in your office or dentist's waiting room. CFLs are light bulbs made in different sizes and shapes to fit in standard household light sockets such as table lamps, ceiling fixtures and backyard lights. What isn't standard is the

performance of various CFLs; according to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Web site, you should look for ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs because they've been tested to meet stringent performance criteria established by the EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy.

So, how does an ENERGY STAR CFL save you money?

- It uses at least two-thirds less energy than a regular bulb to provide the same amount of light, and can save \$30 or more in energy costs over the bulb's lifetime.
- It lasts up to 10 times longer.
- It generates 70% less heat than a regular light bulb, which can cut energy costs associated with home cooling.

Need another reason to say "CFL"? If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR CFL, we'd save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions 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.

Gardens and Greenhouses



"Caring for Your Yard During Drought"

This summer we are experiencing below average rainfall. Naturally, precautions for water conservation will be essential and for many regions this will mean restrictions on watering the lawn. The following tips will help you keep your lawn healthy during below average rain periods and still allow you to do your part to conserve water.

Don't Skimp. If you have to cut back on watering it is better to increase the time between watering rather than increase the amount of water you apply during each irrigation.

Be Weather Conscious. Be sure to adjust your watering schedule with changes in the weather. Water less frequently during cool or wet weather, and be sure to turn off automatic systems when it rains.

Avoid Waste. Set a timer to make sure you don't forget sprinklers are running. To prevent runoff on lawns growing on slopes or heavy clay soils it is best to pulse irrigate. Run sprinklers for 10 minutes, turn them off to let the water soak in, then water for another 10 minutes. Repeat the cycle until the soil is wet to depth of six to eight inches.

Water Efficiently. Light sprinkling does little good for your lawn. Instead water to a depth of six to eight inches to encourage deep rooting. These deep roots offer grass a larger reservoir of moisture to draw from to withstand dry periods.

To measure water penetration, probe the soil with a stiff rod or screwdriver. The rod or screwdriver will move easily through moist soil but will be harder to push when it reaches dry soil.

Do not water at night but water early morning. When watering in early morning you don't lose water from evaporation like you would do during the middle of the day and you do not enhance diseases (since the water will evaporate from the leaf blades in a few hours) as you would by watering late in the evening or a night (by watering late in the evening the water sits there and provides an ideal conditions for disease buildup).

Irrigation System. If you have an automated system, occasionally watch it run to make sure everything is operating properly and water isn't being wasted through runoff or over-spray.

~ From <http://www.bayeradvanced.com/article/drought-yard-care.html>

Be sure to visit my website at
www.cleveland-home-finder.com

Congratulations!

Welcome...

Louise Baginski, Rosie Bob

Happy Homeowners...

Bonnie Nugent, Todd & Lynn Morgan,
Steve Smith & Victoria Frantz, Concetta Romano,
Dwayne & Nancy Klier, and Mike & Mary Kelly

Successfully Sold...

Terry Narowitz, Dwayne & Nancy Klier,
Tom and Jim DePaul, and Mike & Mary Kelly

Thanks for Your Referrals...

Mike Devis, Donna Merlihan, Tom Fabek, Rob Gallmann,
Brian Pogue, Cheryl Fagan, Gretchen Gallmann,
Scott & Steve McDannell, Bill Birinyi,
and Chris & Diane Czinger

Referrals are the ♥ of my business!

My purpose is for you to be so *outrageously happy* with the help I provide to you that you'll gladly introduce me to at least two people you really care about before I even sell your home or help you buy a new home.

What Are You Waiting For?

Interested in one of my listings? Want to learn more?
Please contact me at **440-925-6774** or visit my website at
www.cleveland-home-finder.com.

West Park - 3 BR colonial on Metropark, \$239,900

Brookpark - 4 BR bungalow, \$127,900 (new)

Brunswick - 4 BR colonial, \$269,900

Strongsville - 3 BR ranch, \$119,900

Avon - 3 BR colonial, \$399,900

New London - 4-5 BR colonial, \$179,900 (new)

Olmsted Falls - 5 acres \$189,900 (new)

North Ridgeville - 3 BR ranch on 1 acre, \$124,900 (sold)

North Royalton - 4 BR colonial, \$229,900 (pending)

Brookpark - 4 BR starter, \$129,900 (sold)

North Royalton - 2 BR cluster, \$199,900 (sold)

Fairview Park - 1 BR ranch condo, \$79,900 (sold)

Medina -1760 SF. commercial building, \$99,000 (sold)

North Royalton - 4 BR colonial, \$269,900 (pending)

Brookpark - 4 BR colonial, \$198,900 (sold)

Old Brooklyn - 3 BR colonial, \$94,900 (pending)

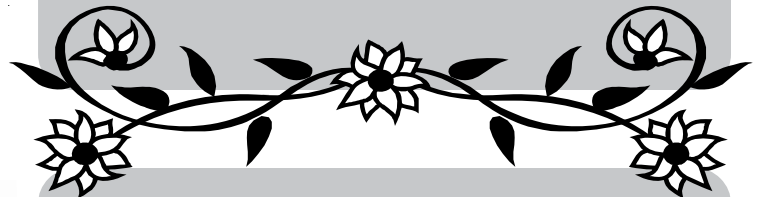


Positive Thinking Corner

Have you ever heard of the phenomenon of "self-talk"?

Even if you haven't been aware of it in the past, it's there, says therapist Nancy J. Napier in *Recreating Yourself*. "It's the dialogue you have with yourself about who you are, what you're doing, how well you're doing, whether you're good enough, what people think of you and so on," she says. "Your self-talk is a reflection of what you took in about yourself as a child, particularly those things that were reinforced time and again."

Napier says that in cognitive therapy, identifying negative self-talk and challenging it can bring about positive change. You start by questioning the assumptions underlying the statements. Napier uses this example: "Joe stood me up for a date last night. I guess I'm not attractive enough to get the man I want." Once you become aware of what you're telling yourself, Napier suggests you replace the negative statement with a positive statement: "Yes, Joe did stand me up. That's reason enough to realize that Joe isn't the kind of guy I want to have around."



If You're in the Market...

What is Title Insurance?

It is a policy that protects an owner against losses arising through defects in the title to real estate owned. Title insurance is unique in that it protects against losses arising in the future from what has happened in the past.

Why Buy Title Insurance?

Before purchasing a property, it is important to know the status of the title. A complete examination of the title will disclose such information as unpaid taxes, liens, easements, restrictions, and more.

What is Escrow?

Escrow is a transaction whereby a third party carries out the instructions of the buyer and seller according to the terms of the Purchase Agreement.

~ Provided by Valerrie Tocci, Premier Title Agency