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Nov/Dec 2007
Volume 5, Issue 6

What's on Your Shopping List?

If you're looking to give great gifts this holiday season, consider these simple, yet meaningful ideas...

THE GIFT OF LISTENING: But, you must really listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listen.

THE GIFT OF AFFECTION: Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER: Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you."

THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE: It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT: A simple and sincere "You look great in red," "You did a super job" or, "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

THE GIFT OF A FAVOR: Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE: There are times when we want nothing more than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION: The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. It's not that hard to smile and say "Hello" or "Thank You."

This holiday season, may you give and receive these gifts and more.



You Are Priceless

A well-known speaker started off his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill. To the room of 200, he asked, "Who would like this \$20 bill?" Hands started going up.

He said, "I'm going to give this \$20 to one of you but first, let me do this." He proceeded to crumple up the \$20 bill. He then asked, "Who still wants it?" All the hands were up in the air. "Well," he asked, "what if I do this?" He dropped the bill and ground it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, now crumpled and dirty. "Now who wants it?" Still the hands went into the air. "My friends, we have all learned a very valuable lesson," he said. "No matter what I did to the money, you still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It was still worth \$20.

"Many times in our lives," he continued, "we are dropped, crumpled, and ground into the dirt by the decisions we make and the circumstances that come our way. At times we feel as though we're worthless. But no matter what has happened or what will happen, you'll never lose your value. Dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still priceless...and especially to those who love you."

Tell someone today that you think they're priceless. You'll both be glad you did!

On Gratitude...

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.

~ Melody Beattie

Holly's Household Corner

"Candle Safety Tips"



If you're fond of candles and plan on burning them during this holiday season, you should consider the risks candles pose and take precautions. While candles can be beautiful and smell wonderful, remember that a candle is an open flame, and it can ignite anything combustible nearby, according to information on the National Fire Protection Association website.

- Christmas Day is when most home candle fires occur. New Year's Day and Christmas Eve tied for second.
- In 2004, an estimated 17,200 home fires started by candles were reported to fire departments. These fires resulted in an estimated 200 deaths, 1,540 injuries and estimated property losses of \$200 million.
- Candle fires accounted for an estimated 5% of all reported home fires.
- Two-fifths (40%) of home candle fires started in the bedroom, resulting in 30% of the deaths by candle fires.
- Falling asleep was a factor in 12% of home candle fires and 25% of the home candle fire deaths.
- Almost half of candle fires start when some form of combustible material is left too close to the candle. Eighteen percent started after candles were left unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled.

The National Fire Protection Association recommends the following candle safety tips:

- Make sure all candles are extinguished before going to sleep or leaving the room.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as clothing, books and curtains.
- Use sturdy candles holders that won't tip over easily and that are made from a material that won't burn. They should also be large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Keep candles and open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Keep candle wicks trimmed to one-quarter inch, and extinguish taper and pillar candles when they get to within two inches of the holder. Votives and containers should be extinguished before the last half-inch of wax begins to melt.
- During power outages use flashlights, not candles.

Gardens and Greenhouses

"CULTIVATE Lasting Friendships"



SOW seeds of kindness. Listen to SAGE advice. Don't let the little things BUG you. BEE outstanding in your FIELD. Take THYME for yourself. No VINING.

Stop Rushing... Start Breathing

We all know people who seem to rush from one thing to the next without ever being able to settle into the moment. Why is this such a destructive mode? The main reason is that when you keep yourself too busy to really focus on anything, you're constantly in motion. And when you're always on the move, you rarely have the time or energy to process what's happening in your life.

While staying busy is important, it seems that a reminder to slow down in our personal lives and in the workplace is what most people need these days. We're all running at high gear so much of the time, what we're doing or accomplishing seems to lose meaning. Just doing something - even if it doesn't make much sense - has become important.

To break the mold, you need to take action. But acting without reflection is unlikely to produce results that help you progress; that usually takes thought mixed with meaningful action. A little meditation on the matter might help. That doesn't mean you have to practice an hour of meditation every day to get results. Instead, try to stop three times a day for three or four minutes. Close your eyes and try to quiet your mind, emptying it of the many thoughts racing around in it. Take a deep breath or two, relax, and let your mind go blank.

Consider starting your morning this way, then take a midday break, and another just before day's end. The practice should restore a little equilibrium to your day - and it only takes a few minutes to accomplish.

Tone Up With Tunes

Research from the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation found that when people listen to faster music they pedal faster on stationary bikes. This in turn increased their heart rates and improved the possible health benefits of their workouts.

So next time you're at the gym, grab that iPod and tune into something with a good, fast beat.

www.cleveland-home-finder.com

Congratulations!

Welcome...

John Grove, Ken Whetsell, Patti & Marty Rees, Gary Nessel, Sal & Connie Midolo, Joe & Wendy Gordon

Happy Homeowners...

Janet Pedro, Jessica & Chris Slomka, Melissa Tichy

Successfully Sold...

Jim & Carol Centivany

Thanks for Your Referrals...

Dennis & Peggy Dickson, Suzanne Gallman, Kim Kapustik, Dennis & Diane Goetze, Carol Williams, Diane Czinger

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.

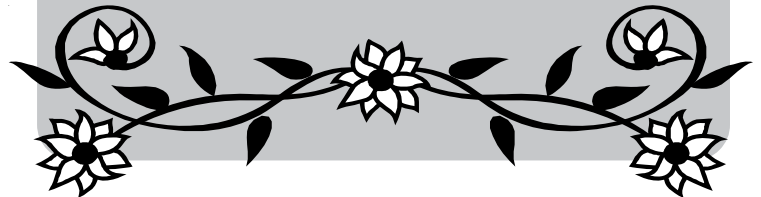
Referrals are the ♥ of my business!



Positive Thinking Corner

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses.
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes.
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears.
- Count your full years instead of your lean;
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
- Count your health instead of your wealth;
- Count on God instead of yourself.

Wishing you all a blessed and safe holiday season!



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.

- N. Royalton** - Clean, 4 bdrm colonial, corner lot, \$219,900
- Olmsted Falls** - 4 bdrm, cape cod w/fenced yard, \$149,900
- N. Ridgeville** - Diamond in the rough on 3/4 acre, \$124,900 (pending)
- New London** - Charming Victorian in small town, \$165,900
- Parma Hts** - 1800 sf ranch needs tlc \$89,900 (pending)
- N. Royalton** - 4 bedroom colonial on 1 acre, \$359,900
- Parma** - Immaculate 2 family, \$152,500 (sold)
- Cleveland** - 2 houses/one lot; Investors wanted, \$59,999
- Cleveland** - 3 bedroom colonial, \$74,900
- West Park** - 3 BR colonial on Metropark, \$228,900
- Brookpark** - 4 BR bungalow, \$119,900
- Strongsville** - 3 BR ranch, \$99,900 (sold)
- New London** - 4-5 BR colonial, \$179,900 (pending)
- Olmsted Falls** - 5 acres, free house, \$189,900



If You're in the Market...



Although many think this isn't the time of year to sell a home, keep the following in mind. There are people who DO have to buy a home.

- Someone relocating into town with a job transfer.
- A family who just sold their house and needs to buy another.
- Quick tax advantage before the year ends.

Just one showing during the holidays could be "the one!"

On the other hand, if you DON'T HAVE TO sell right now, then consider removing your house from the market for a few reasons.

- Wait for a better market and you may realize more equity when conditions do change.
- If more homes came off the market it would be less saturated and could balance out the buyers market.
- If you have only owned your home for a couple of years, you have not earned any equity, property values have gone down. Hold onto your investment longer. Think long term!
- Sellers with the mindset "I'm not in a hurry" or "We are not that motivated" will only hurt the overall market by sitting stagnant.

Either way you look at it...this is a great time to buy!