

Christy's SMART MOVE FOR HOMEOWNERS

Working Hard to Keep You Informed

No. 2 2016



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Dear Valued Client,

February is often associated with love and romance, but is Valentine's Day the Hallmark holiday that many seem to think was created only to sell cards and chocolate?

The Catholic Church recognizes three saints named Valentine that were all martyred. According to www.history.com, one legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

It is thought that February 14th was chosen to celebrate the anniversary of Valentine's death. However, it is more likely that mid-February was selected to try and overshadow the pagan fertility celebration of Lupercalia. By the Middle Ages Valentine's Day was already widely celebrated, long before even the early days of Hallmark's founding.

Of course the holiday is still a huge boon to several industries. An estimated 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are sent every year, along with 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate, and 110 million roses.

In honor of this holiday of love, here's this month's trivia question. What food is nick-named the love apple?

Call, text or email me with your answer to be entered into the drawing for this month's \$50 gift card. Check out past winners on my website, www.buyandsellincolorado.com.

Christy

*think,
act... live!*

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Winston Churchill

"The starting point of all achievement is desire."

Napoleon Hill

"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

Eleanor Roosevelt

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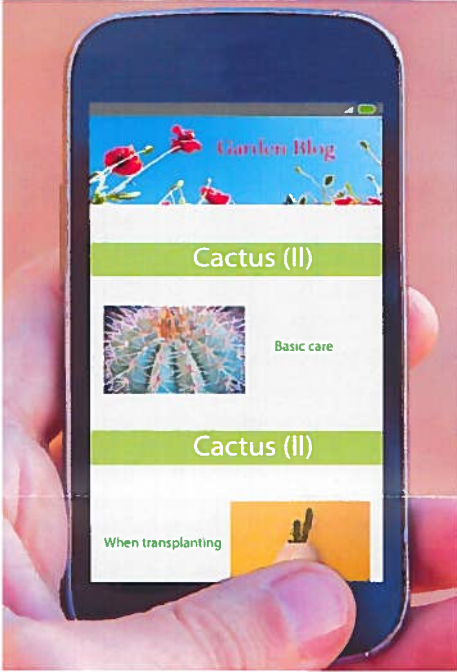
Did You Know?

You've heard that "sleeping on it" can help you solve a problem. Is that really true? Yes, according to scientific research it's true. So, sleep away!

My job as your REALTOR® is to help you with all your needs – before, during and after the sale.

If you want market statistics for your area, please call.

Start Your 2016 Garden Now



The best gardens are the result of good planning, so now is a good time to get started. You can begin by mapping out areas you would like to improve. Next, go online to confirm the plant hardiness zone of your neighborhood and, if possible, have a soil analysis done. Using the results, identify the types of plants that are best suited to your garden – from ground cover to trees – and then use books, magazines and/or websites to find your favorites. If you start planning early in the year, you can ensure that you'll be on track to create the garden of your dreams!

The Latest Trends in Home Appliances

Modern, so-called smart appliances, are being designed to offer us more and more convenience and savings. With their features (such as lighting, heating and cooling) controlled on demand through your phone, as well as the addition of features such as monitoring systems for plumbing leaks, these appliances are getting "smarter" every day. You might enjoy using your phone to have your coffee maker respond to your alarm clock, to communicate with your oven (as it walks you through a recipe), or to regulate air circulation in your home (by adjusting the delivery at each register or grill, room by room). Homes are already equipped with tablets embedded in the walls of rooms that control utilities, entertainment and home



security functions. So, there's no doubt that we'll soon become even more dependent upon smart appliances, as they help shape our modern lifestyle.

Do You Know What's Behind Your Walls?

Rather than wait for a household emergency, take time to understand the inner workings of your home's utility infrastructure. Start by ensuring the whole family knows the location of your main water shut-off valve, so quick action can be taken to minimize damage in the event of a major leak. From there, you can trace the path of your water supply pipes to each faucet. Next, locate your main electrical panel. It should have all room lighting and appliance circuits labelled. If it doesn't, you should have it done, in order to avoid difficulty in identifying a circuit should one fail, overload or need to be disconnected. After the power, consider your heating and air conditioning. If they are



delivered via forced air, then ducts are easily traced from the source unit to the supply grills. Generally speaking, most electrical wiring is threaded through and along wall studs and support beams, terminating at wall outlets, ceiling fixtures and major appliances, whereas plumbing, heating and AC tends to be channeled between structural framework.

Use Apps to Envision and Plan Changes to Your Home

Smartphone apps assist us in many ways, but homeowners may appreciate them most when embarking on a renovation project. From wall measurements to color experimentation, there's a wide range of apps to help simplify tasks and foresee outcomes before you begin. For example, your phone can calculate the square footage of an irregular room's floor and walls to help calculate required quantities of supplies, or it can act as a level and a plumb – ideal for hanging pictures or building walls. You can also take photos of items and store them in special files for reference, or search curated products of interest, and find out where to purchase them. In fact, there's even an app that uses your phone's GPS locator to track the position of the sun from dawn to dusk and season to season. This obviously would be of enormous benefit if



you were planning the footprint for new construction, but also useful in planning new window locations, and deciding where to plant trees so they can provide shade for energy savings. In addition, it can guide decisions for positioning of supplementary lighting, original artwork, worktables and big-screen monitors.