



Real Estate Matters

August 2014

August Events

Irish Fair & Music Festival – August 1-3, 2014, Long Beach

Bluesapalooza & Festival of Beers – July 31 – August 3, Mammoth Lakes

Bacon-wrapped barbeque shrimp

- 1/3 cup Dijon mustard
- 1/4 cup honey
- 2 tbs mayonnaise
- 1 tsp steak sauce
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves

1. Preheat the grill for medium heat.
2. In a bowl, mix the mustard, honey, mayonnaise and steak sauce. Set aside a small amount of the mix in a separate bowl for basting, and dip the chicken in the remaining sauce to coat.
3. Lightly oil the grill grate. Grill the chicken over indirect heat for 18 to 20 minutes, turning occasionally, until juices run clear. Baste the chicken with the honey mustard mix during the last 10 minutes of cooking. Serve and enjoy!



(from allrecipes.com)

Summer moving tips

Helping friends and relatives move is one life's many joys. Make it a breeze with these tips!

Plan ahead

- **Shop moving companies at least a month before you move.** Book a van or truck well ahead of time.
- **Sort your belongings into three categories:**
 1. Things to be tossed, recycled or given away;
 2. Things to be packed ahead of time; and
 3. Things to keep handy until moving day.
- **Arrange childcare and/or petcare for moving day.**

Stay cool

- Wear light, close-fitting clothing to stay cool and avoid getting snagged on obstacles.
- Wear comfortable, close-toed shoes – exposed feet are prone to injury.
- Drink plenty of water, and avoid sugary drinks that speed dehydration.
- Take lots of breaks! Stop for water and a snack in the shade every hour or so.

Protect your belongings

- Take heat-sensitive electronics, house plants, small pets, candles and medicines with you in an air-conditioned car.
- Pack and load basic kitchen and bathroom items last. Label these boxes "Open First."

Recruit help

- If movers have been hired, offer them cold water and provide somewhere for them to take periodic breaks.
- If perishable foods weren't finished before the move, suggest a barbeque as a great way to get rid of the food.

Thinking of a move yourself? Call me to talk about listing your property and finding a new one!





Keep intruders out while on vacation

Planning a summer trip? Don't leave your empty home vulnerable to intruders. Take these extra steps to keep your home safe:

- **Don't break the pattern.** Disrupting your daily routines alerts burglars you're away. Maintain typical patterns by investing in light timers, hiring a lawn service or arranging a house sitter.
- **Stop!** Put a temporary stop on your mail and newspaper deliveries. The hold-mail service is free and you can make the request online.
- **Shhh...** Remember to turn off your alarm clock and turn down the ringer on your house phone before you leave. Audible alerts like continuously beeping alarm clocks and ringing phones can draw attention to your absence.
- **Neighborhoodly love.** Tell a neighbor when you leave town so they can keep an eye on your property and put up your garbage bins. If you're good friends, ask if they will occasionally park in your driveway or rotate the cars parked in front of your house. Don't forget to return the favor!
- **Lockup and disconnect.** It's easy to forget the basics. Lock all windows and doors. Be sure all external doors have deadbolts and place metal or wooden rods in sliding door tracks so they can't be forced open. Disconnect the power to your garage door so it can't be opened by a universal opener.
- **Global Positioning Savvy.** A car left in long term parking with a GPS on the dash is an advertisement that your house is unguarded — and you're providing a map to it! Once you get to the airport, hide your GPS, lock the keyboard or set "Home" to a local business and not your empty home.

Have a great trip! If you find your getaways are frequent, maybe it's time for a move to a more permanent paradise. Give me a call if you're thinking about listing your house!

Your August Maintenance Tip

Cooking is the leading cause of house fires, so take these precautions in the kitchen and by the grill:

- keep a fire extinguisher handy;
- avoid wearing loose clothing that may catch fire;
- keep flammable cooking materials away from the stove or grill;
- supervise older children helping with the cooking and keep small children away altogether;
- shut off stove burners when you leave the room, even if it's for a minute;
- turn pot handles inward so they can't be easily knocked down; and
- don't cook while intoxicated.

When you're not cooking, follow these tips to prevent other fire hazards in your home:

- turn off your dryer before leaving the house;
- avoid smoking indoors;
- keep space heaters more than three feet away from flammable possessions;
- blow out candles when you leave a room; and
- moisten matches before tossing them in the trash.

Make the extra effort to fireproof your home so your summer is safe and fun!