



REAL ESTATE, RATES AND RECIPES

MAY 2004



DeeDee Fleming,
Realtor

Service With an Old-Fashioned Touch

What can I say about this month of May? It is the time when the holidays begin to happen, we start celebrating with Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. It is the time of year to prepare for vacations, kids out of school, HEAT (for many of us) and get-togethers. May is the gateway into the summer.

As we prepare for and enjoy these next few months, which we know will be filled with fun and adventure, let's not forget about those whose lives have changed and may need us to help them in the transition. While we gear up to have fun with our families, try to include a service project to help those in need. Make it a service vacation or activity. Check on friends and family that have lost loved ones. Give time to a homeless shelter, take food to a food bank, collect items for children in need. Remember that we each have the responsibility to watch out for the other, and serve in whatever way we can. We are not here alone and need not be selfish. I know it may sound preachy or strange, but what great satisfaction it will bring into your family's life and the life that you may help.

The world revolves around the "me's" in it. Let us try to focus on the "us" and do what we can to change the lives of others for the better and in turn be blessed for our service.

What's UP with Mortgage Rates?!

You may have noticed that mortgage rates have inched up in recent weeks. This will no doubt put a damper on some refinancing activities because so many homeowners are already so close to today's rates.

But take a look at these numbers, and you'll be amazed at how historically low today's rates really are:

(Freddie Mac, 30-year fixed rate national average)

1980: 13.74%	1990: 10.13%	2000: 8.05%
1981: 16.63%	1991: 9.25%	2001: 6.97%
1972: 7.38%	1982: 16.04%	1992: 8.39%
1973: 8.04%	1983: 13.24%	1993: 7.31%
1974: 9.19%	1984: 13.88%	1994: 8.38%
1975: 9.05%	1985: 12.43%	1995: 7.93%
1976: 8.87%	1986: 10.19%	1996: 7.81%
1977: 8.85%	1987: 10.21%	1997: 7.6%
1978: 9.64%	1988: 10.34%	1998: 6.94%
1979: 11.20%	1989: 10.32%	1999: 7.44%

After a dozen years of double-digit rates in the 1980's, we've enjoyed more than a dozen years of *single-digit* mortgage rates. Furthermore, today's rates are among the lowest that many of us have seen in our lifetimes! So don't be discouraged, the American Dream is still within reach, and rates should stay historically low for a long time.

Interest Rates, as of 5/20/04		
Loan	Rate	Points
30	6.3	.7
15	5.67	.7
1-yr	3.99	.6

STRAWBERRY LEMONADE

3-4 lemons	4 c. water
3/4 c. sugar	1/2 tsp. salt
1 c. strawberries, hulled	

Squeeze juice from lemons.

Strain through fine-mesh sieve into measuring cup and discard seeds and pulp. (You should have 1/2 c. juice). Refrigerate lemon juice.

Place water, sugar, salt and strawberries in a saucepan.

Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring often with a wooden spoon and mashing strawberries as much as possible. Continue to boil, stirring often, until sugar has dissolved and a light syrup has formed, about 2 minutes. Remove from heat, cool, cover and refrigerate until well chilled.

Pour syrup through fine-mesh sieve, discarding strawberry pulp. Combine syrup and lemon juice. Stir well. Taste and add more sugar if necessary. Serve over ice.

Makes 4 (8 oz.) servings

Source: Pat's Recipes (basketsbypat.freecycle.com/strawberrylemonade.html)



An independent member broker

Phone: 480-239-7194 Fax: 480-821-8157

Email: DeeDee@FlemingProperties.net Website: www.FlemingProperties.net