



DeeDee Fleming

# REAL ESTATE, RATES AND RECIPES

FEBRUARY 2008

*Service With an Old-Fashioned Touch*

## MAKE THE AMERICAN DREAM A REALITY

### The Advantages of Buying vs. Renting

\$84,000. That's how much rent you pay over ten years at \$700/month! The question is not "can you afford to buy a home," but "can you afford to continue to pay rent?" Your income will likely increase over the years, but so will your rent payment! On the other hand, a fixed-rate mortgage payment will remain the same, and ownership allows you to build equity in your home.



more than you realize! Talk to your mortgage lender, or let me recommend a few good ones that I know.

### Tax Advantages

When you analyze how large a monthly mortgage payment you can afford, don't forget to consider the tax advantages that may become available to you. Both the interest and the property taxes on an owner-occupied home may be deductible on your tax return, which can reduce the overall cost of home ownership. For example, my family's tax bill this year was reduced by \$4000 as a result of mortgage interest and property taxes paid! Consider getting professional advice, then let me help you find a home or find an agent that can help you where you live!

### Interest Rates

We are enjoying our 18th consecutive year of single-digit average interest rates, and our 8th year in a row below 7%. That's historically remarkable, and you might be able to afford

Average Mortgage Rates  
(Source: FHLMC "Freddie Mac" www.freddiemac.com)

Feb 14, 2008	30-yr	15-yr	5/1-yr ARM	1-yr ARM
Average Rates:	5.72%	5.25%	5.19%	5.00%
Fees & Points:	.4	.4	.4	.4

### AND BY THE WAY...

If you know someone who's looking for a great realtor, whether close by or across the country, We Can Help!

*Just give us a call!*

### Butterscotch Drops

Prep Time: 10 Minutes Cook Time: 5 Minutes

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (11 ounce) package butterscotch chips
- 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 4 cups cornflakes cereal

#### DIRECTIONS:

1. In a medium saucepan over medium heat, melt butterscotch chips and peanut butter together.
2. Remove from stove and stir in cornflakes.
3. Drop by spoonfuls onto cookie sheets.
4. Chill to harden.

Allrecipes.com



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