

YOUR SANIBEL

December 2017

To Decorate or Not to Decorate?

by Susan McCallion

That is the question most homeowner's have when they have their home on the market during the holiday season. It's tough, especially if you are living in your home or hosting family for the holidays. We never want to discourage holiday cheer, but here's my best advice... decorate with taste and sensitivity to potential buyers that might view your home during the holiday season.

I know, "decorate to taste" is vague, let me break it down.

DON'T COMPETE FOR BEST LIGHTS DISPLAY

Avoid elaborate yard displays that take away from your curb appeal. Huge blow up Santa's, or the entire reindeer lineup might distract potential homebuyers, taking attention away from your beautiful palm trees and foliage. While a few simple, white exterior lights hung from the roofline are a



nice touch to outline the size of your house, I would avoid the dancing projector lights or strands of multicolor lights that don't provide a warm and clean curb appeal.

NO WINTER WONDERLANDS

The same advice goes for

your interior decorations, less is more. An elegant lighted garland is nice above the fireplace, but don't turn your home into a grand winter wonderland. I would suggest a smaller Christmas tree this year, one that does not take away from the size of your living room and make the

space seem small and crowded. If the holidays will not be the same without your nutcracker collection, I suggest removing current decor and dispersing the nutcrackers throughout the home with one or two in each room.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

SANIBEL EVENTS



Christmas Eve Beach Service

December 24, 2017

5:00 p.m.

Sanibel Lighthouse Beach

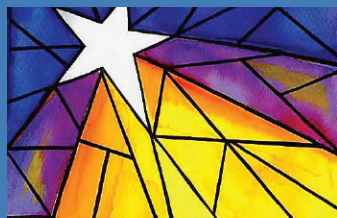


See The Full Sanibel Event Calendar on Page 4

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Recently Sold on Sanibel and Captiva Islands

We've compiled a list of every property that has sold on Sanibel and Captiva Island over the past two months. Turn to page 2 to see what homes sold during the months of September, October and through mid-November, 2017. We also list how quickly

each home sold, and the final closing price of each transaction. If you're thinking of selling your Sanibel homes, these details can help you better understand the current real estate market here on the islands. ■

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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HOUSES SOLD

Island Sales - September, October, Mid-November

CAPTIVA ISLAND

	Subdivision	Address	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.	DOM	Close Date	List Price	Sold Price
CONDOS	BAYSIDE VILLAS	5136 Bayside Villas #5136	1	2	684	331	09/20/2017	\$315,000	\$310,000
	BAYSIDE VILLAS	4118 Bayside Villas #4118	1	2	847	216	09/29/2017	\$375,000	\$337,000
	BEACH VILLAS	2525 Beach Villas #2525	2	2	1,043	440	09/25/2017	\$639,000	\$620,000
	BEACH VILLAS	2623 Beach Villas #2623	1	1	687	85	10/06/2017	\$530,000	\$528,000
	BEACH VILLAS	2517 Beach Villas #2517	1	1	687	374	10/11/2017	\$497,500	\$475,000
	LANDS END VILLAGE	1614 Lands End Vlg #1614	3	3	2,825	224	10/03/2017	\$2,575,000	\$2,300,000
	TENNIS VILLAS	3118 Tennis Villas #3118	1	1	586	176	10/06/2017	\$255,500	\$250,000
SINGLE FAMILY	METES AND BOUNDS	11500 Chapin Ln	4	4	2,852	1,010	10/11/2017	\$1,795,000	\$1,650,000

SANIBEL ISLAND - EAST

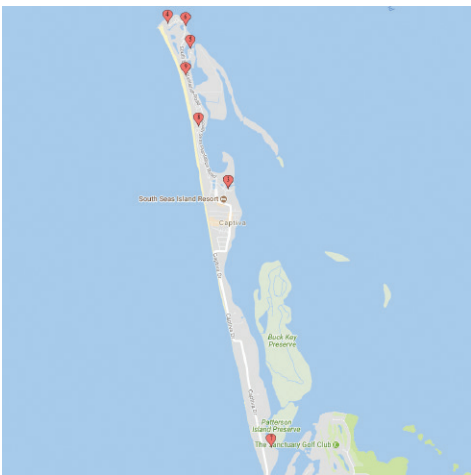
	Subdivision	Address	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.	DOM	Close Date	List Price	Sold Price
CONDOS	LIGHTHOUSE POINT	200 Periwinkle Way #327	3	2	1,621	62	10/12/2017	\$849,000	\$815,000
	MARINER POINTE	760 Sextant Dr #811	2	2	1,227	17	11/06/2017	\$435,000	\$420,000
	SANIBEL MOORINGS	845 E Gulf Dr #931	2	2	981	242	10/02/2017	\$550,000	\$490,000
	SUNDIAL EAST	1401 Middle Gulf Dr #0-405	2	2	1,516	72	11/01/2017	\$1,099,500	\$1,013,250
	SUNSET SOUTH	1340 Middle Gulf Dr #6D	2	2	1,460	64	11/07/2017	\$499,900	\$470,000
SINGLE FAMILY	DUNES SANIBEL	1311 Sand Castle Rd	3	2	2,222	154	10/06/2017	\$799,000	\$750,000
	METES AND BOUNDS	732 Windlass Way	4	3	2,829	498	10/11/2017	\$1,195,000	\$1,050,000
	SANIBEL ESTATES	519 Lagoon Dr	4	2	1,278	243	09/13/2017	\$849,000	\$800,000
	SANIBEL ESTATES	931 S Yachtsman Dr	4	3	2,616	510	10/12/2017	\$870,000	\$800,000
	SANIBEL ESTATES	655 Anchor Dr.	3	3	3,768	198	11/02/2017	\$749,000	\$605,000
	SHELL HARBOR	1137 Golden Olive Ct	5	3	3,187	133	09/22/2017	\$1,794,500	\$1,592,500
	SHELL HARBOR	984 Oyster Ct	3	3	2,394	240	10/31/2017	\$1,650,000	\$1,625,000
	WATER SHADOWS	1687 Hibiscus Dr	3	3	2,484	283	10/02/2017	\$1,250,000	\$1,040,000
	YACHTSMAN COVE	419 Lighthouse Way	4	3	2,445	34	11/03/2017	\$797,500	\$797,500
1/2 DUPLEX	DUNES SANIBEL	976 Sand Castle Rd	3	3	1,734	149	10/23/2017	\$489,000	\$470,000
MULTI-FAMILY	SANIBEL CENTER	982 Main St	3	2	1,664	4	09/19/2017	\$489,000	\$465,000

SANIBEL ISLAND - MID

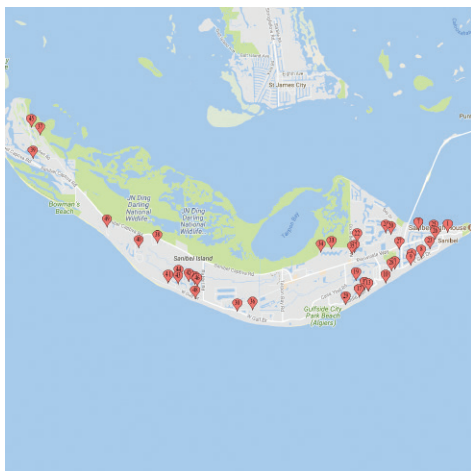
	Subdivision	Address	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.	DOM	Close Date	List Price	Sold Price
CONDOS	COTTAGE COLONY WEST	2255 W Gulf Dr #138	1	1	806	273	11/06/2017	\$575,000	\$570,000
	ROYALE TERN	2959 W Gulf Dr #103	3	3	2,397	210	09/28/2017	\$1,675,000	\$1,430,000
	SAND POINTE	2737 W Gulf Dr #113	2	2	1,007	724	09/22/2017	\$719,000	\$683,000
	SANDDOLLAR	1785 Middle Gulf Dr #A303	3	2	1,348	153	10/31/2017	\$1,349,000	\$1,275,000
	TARPON BEACH	2475 W Gulf Dr #103	2	2	1,145	207	10/31/2017	\$749,000	\$725,000
	VILLA SANIBEL	2321 W Gulf Dr #3C	2	2	1,239	21	10/20/2017	\$650,000	\$630,000
SINGLE FAMILY	BEACHVIEW CC ESTATES	1294 Par View Dr	3	2	2,495	259	10/18/2017	\$929,000	\$900,000
	GUMBO LIMBO	9455 Beverly Ln	2	2	1,344	209	10/04/2017	\$546,000	\$525,000
	GUMBO LIMBO	1550 Bunting Ln	2	2	1,681	110	10/23/2017	\$644,000	\$622,000
	LAKE MUREX	485 Lake Murex Cir	3	2	2,033	144	10/27/2017	\$1,075,000	\$970,000
	LITTLE LAKE MUREX	3364 Twin Lakes Ln	3	2	2,275	68	10/02/2017	\$699,000	\$670,000
	METES AND BOUNDS	390 Old Trail Rd	4	4	4,025	162	09/01/2017	\$2,195,000	\$2,000,000
	PALM LAKE	215 Palm Lake Dr	3	2	1,962	234	09/25/2017	\$699,900	\$630,000
	PERIWINKLE PINES1	2150 Egret Cir	3	2	1,556	89	09/28/2017	\$524,900	\$505,000

SANIBEL ISLAND - WEST

	Subdivision	Address	Beds	Baths	Sq.Ft.	DOM	Close Date	List Price	Sold Price
CONDOS	BLIND PASS	5117 Sea Bell Rd #F106	2	2	1,360	343	09/22/2017	\$409,000	\$385,000
	IBIS AT THE SANCTUARY	5775 Baltusrol Ct #B201	2	2	1,637	174	10/06/2017	\$475,000	\$470,000
	IBIS AT THE SANCTUARY	5775 Baltusrol Ct #B302	2	2	1,459	342	10/31/2017	\$468,500	\$460,000
	SANCTUARY GOLF VILLAGES I	2675 Wulfert Rd #2	2	2	2,815	112	10/06/2017	\$649,000	\$627,000
	SANCTUARY GOLF VILLAGES I	2619 Wulfert Rd #5	2	2	2,815	237	10/20/2017	\$699,000	\$665,000
SINGLE FAMILY	BETTS	6081 Henderson Rd	3	2	1,872	123	11/06/2017	\$799,900	\$740,000
	DEL SEGA	2489 Harbour Ln	3	2	1,741	19	10/24/2017	\$699,900	\$670,000
	DEL SEGA	2628 Coconut Dr	3	2	1,964	267	11/02/2017	\$1,350,000	\$1,224,500
	METES AND BOUNDS	3728 W Gulf Dr	5	5	3,141	252	10/20/2017	\$2,395,000	\$2,325,000
	SANCTUARY AT WULFERT	5639 Baltusrol Ct	4	4	3,534	315	11/07/2017	\$1,695,000	\$1,695,000
	SANIBEL BAYOUS	5305 Umbrella Pool Rd	3	2	1,867	60	10/30/2017	\$579,000	\$559,000
	SEA OATS	587 Sea Oats Dr	3	2	1,400	179	09/29/2017	\$685,000	\$660,000



Captiva Island



Sanibel Island

Data is taken from the Sanibel and Captiva Island MLS and represents the number of homes sold from September 1, 2017 – November 15, 2017



DETERMINING THE REAL VALUE OF YOUR HOME

Q Dear Susan, I'm considering selling my home within the next few months. In order to determine if now is the right time to enter the market, I thought it would be best to figure out the value of my home and discover what the best listing price might be in order to see return at sale. What I am having a hard time understanding is which value is most important to a sale price and how to determine each type of value. Can you explain the difference in value types, which value affects my listing price, and why each of these values of one home can be different from one another?

question. Every year many first time sellers are puzzled by the different values and the reasoning behind each value. As the seller, it's important to remember that you will need to know your appraised value, assessed value and fair market value. Working with a licensed appraiser is a great first step as your appraised value is the most important to help you identify the current market value of your property and set the listing price.

Let's dig into the nitty gritty of what you need to know...

The assessed value of a home is used primarily for the purpose of taxes in your local municipality.

This value of a home is multiplied by the local tax rate to determine what your

yearly taxes are (or what the new buyer's taxes would be). Unlike the assessed value, the appraised value is determined by a licensed appraiser after evaluating the property structure, the current real estate market conditions and the appreciative value from remodeling and updates. This value ensures the price that is agreed upon by the buyer and seller is a fair market value or greater. The appraised value has nothing to do with the taxes of the residential community. The fair market value, although closely related to the appraised value is the only value that can be determined by a licensed or unlicensed professional and determines the market price of your home in regards to the current state of the market in your area and what

price-point would allow your home to be sold in your local market based on average home sale price and market conditions.

In short, the assessed value of your home has no impact on how much your home is worth, and can be significantly higher or lower than your home's market value or sale price based on structure and location alone. The appraised and fair market values revolve primarily on the price at which your home will sell in an open market with relevance to the property's overall value based on land, structure, foundation and improvements from time of purchase.

If you have any additional questions about the values of your home or are searching

for the right real estate agent to help you get the most out of the sale of your home, my team and I are happy to help in any way we can. Give us a call. ■



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ASK SUSAN

YOUR SANIBEL



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Jim & Susan McCallion

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3 Common Sanibel Home Inspection Fails and How NOT to get Trapped by Them

Sanibel - When you have your Sanibel home under contract, you have often negotiated an inspection period where the potential buyers may hire various professionals to come out and inspect your home. During this inspection period, various tests will determine the overall health of your home and all of its systems and appliances.

Having seen hundreds of inspection reports for Sanibel homes, we've put together a report of the three most common issues that inspectors reveal. In our experience, it's easier and cheaper to identify and fix these three problems BEFORE your home even goes on the market.

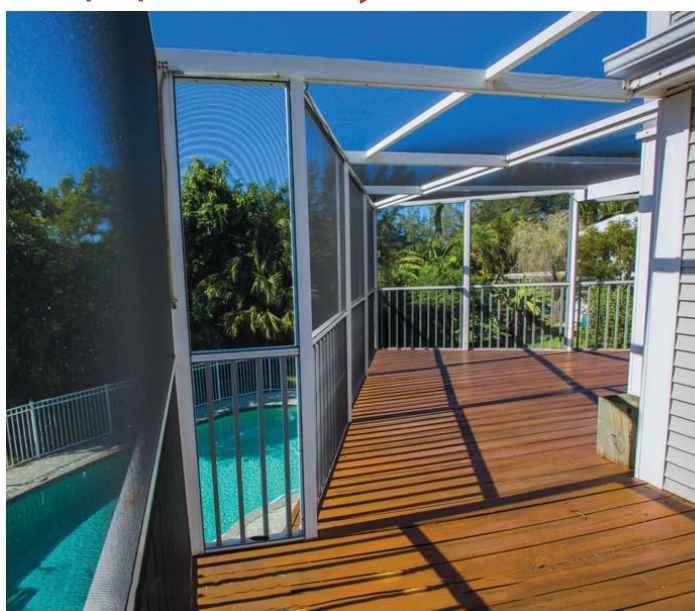
In fact, if you wait until the inspector identifies these common issues, it could cost you more money to have it fixed on

a rushed timeline, and will likely result in a delayed closing on your home. It could even cause the buyers to walk-away from the contract depending on the terms negotiated.

To avoid these unnecessary hardships, we have put together a report containing the three most common inspection fails found with Sanibel homes, and how to address the issues.

To order your FREE report, visit www.inspectionfails.com, or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your report, call toll-free 1-800-298-9845 and enter 1002. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to find out how you can avoid major setbacks with your Sanibel home sale. ■



EVENTS

what's happening on Sanibel Island



DEC
24

Christmas Eve Beach Service

December 24, 5:00pm

Lighthouse Beach

Gather together for a unique Christmas Eve Sunset Service on the beach. There will be music, scripture, fellowship, and candle lighting. Come early and bring a chair and blankets.



Christmas Eve/Day Services by Church:

Captiva Chapel by the Sea
Christmas Eve Service, 6:30 pm
Christmas Day Service, TBD,
10:00 am or 11:00 am

Sanibel Community Church
Christmas Eve Services
Regular Sunday Services, 8:00 am,
9:00 am & 11:00 am
Contemporary Services,
4:00 pm & 6:00 pm
Traditional Service, 8:00 pm

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve Services,
Traditional @ Sanctuary, 10:00 am
Traditional @ Lighthouse Beach,
5:00 pm
Candle Light Service @ Church,
9:00 pm

St. Michael & All Angels
Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm
Children Pageant
8:00 pm Traditional Service
Christmas Day Service, 10:00 am

St. Isabel Catholic Church
Christmas Eve, 5:00 pm & 10:00 pm
Christmas Day, 10:30 am

NOV
30
Elf The Musical - Jr Sanibel
Community House Theater
Nov 30
Showtimes Vary
Sanibel Community House

"An upbeat modern musical sensation for the entire family." Shows start November 30 and run-through December 5.

DEC
9
BIG ARTS Concert Band
Holiday Program
Dec 9
7:00pm
BIG ARTS Schein Hall

Let the BIG ARTS Concert Band help you get into the joyous mood of the holidays! Another BIG ARTS annual community event and a perennial, sell-out favorite.

DEC
1
Sanibel Luminary Night
Dec 1
5:30-9:00pm
Periwinkle Way

As you "travel the trail" in the 33rd Annual Luminary Festival, look for the many fun places to stop and enjoy. The complimentary trolley service will return this year.

DEC
14
BIG ARTS Chorus Holiday Concert
Dec 14
7:00pm
BIG ARTS Schein Hall

Enjoy the music of the holidays with the wonderful BIG ARTS Community Chorus — an annual holiday tradition and a great way to celebrate the songs of the season.

DEC
2
Captiva Luminary Night
Dec 2
5:30-9:00pm
Captiva Drive

Luminary night is a community wide holiday event that brings together residents, visitors, businesses and organizations, promoting goodwill and community spirit.

DEC
8
South Seas Resort
Holiday Stroll
Dec 8
6:00 - 9:00pm
South Seas Island Resort

Families are invited for a breathtaking display of holiday lights and family activities each Friday & Saturday evening in December through the 24th.

DEC
8
BIG ARTS:
A Christmas Carol
Dec 8
Showtimes Vary
BIG ARTS, Strauss Theater

Playing through December 29, A Christmas Carol is a lovely adaptation of Charles Dickens' classic by Christopher Schario with traditional English folk tunes and fiddle.

DEC
10
Christmas with the
Master Singers
Dec 10
5:30pm
Sanibel Community Church

The evening begins with a Christmas Sing-A-Long at 5:30pm in the Sanctuary followed by an unforgettable concert, and festive fellowship in the courtyard.

For a complete list of events, visit www.YourSanibel.com

Don't just hire a single agent to sell your Sanibel home...

Hire a team of professionals!

Meet the McCallion & McCallion Team. We're a close-knit group of agents, closing coordinators and marketing professionals working together to get your Sanibel home sold. Instead of one agent doing it all, we utilize our well-rounded talent and expertise, so that you and your home receive the best service possible.

When you walk in the door, you get us all!

Find out more about our team by visiting www.McCallionRealty.com



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FIVE MUST DO FLORIDA HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



TWEEN WATERS CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

by Jim McCallion

Growing up in Southwest Florida, a “coastal” holiday season is what I remember the most. It wasn’t until I visited other states that I realized our warm holiday season here in Florida looked slightly different than the snowy “white Christmas” elsewhere. Recognizing our uniqueness, I thought you might enjoy a list of five “must do” holiday activities here in Southwest Florida.

1. Palm Tree Lighting - For obvious reasons, this holiday tradition is unique to tropical locations. While you might break a sweat trying to hang your lights during the day, at night, the dark sky and reflective water create an amazing backdrop for outdoor palm tree lighting.

2. Boat Parades - Every city from Sanibel, to Cape Coral, to Naples now has it’s own holiday boat parade! Captain and crew members decorate their boats with elaborate lights and parade the canals, spreading holiday cheer. It’s certainly a “must sea” coastal event!

3. Night Light Bike Riding - Say that three times fast. A popular way to view Christmas lights here in Southwest Florida is to hop on your beach cruisers and pedal your way through the neighborhoods. Often times, residents are sitting



outside, enjoying the evening breeze, and happily exchanging holiday wishes with passerbyers.

4. Decked Out Historical Homes - The Edison & Ford Winter Estates, the Burroughs Home & Gardens, and the Historic Palm Cottage are just a few of the area’s notable, historic homes that get into the holiday spirit. Elegant light displays make these already beautiful homes even more eye-catching to view at night.

5. Beach Firework Shows - We start each New Year with a bang at no other place than the beach! Each town shoots off their fireworks along the coast, creating yet another cool viewing experience from the water and ashore.

I could go on and on about my favorite SWFL holiday activities! I hope you get to experience a few of these unique events for yourself. From our family to yours, we wish you a Happy Holiday Season! ■

About the Author: Jim McCallion, Island Resident and Co-Founder of McCallion & McCallion Realty.

Holiday Decorating (continued from page 1)

DON'T BLOCK THE VIEWS

And PLEASE, don’t block that beautiful view of the Gulf, the bay, the golf course, or your scenic backyard. This is what SELLS YOUR HOME! Avoid lining the windowsills with snowman figurines, or plastering your windows and sliding glass doors with snowflake window-clings. You’ll be surprised at how a simple candle in the window can create a warm and inviting feel.

BE SENSITIVE TO RELIGIOUS VIEWS

I’ve yet to find a holiday decoration that was offensive, but I do suggest remaining sensitive to potential home buyers of all religions. While I see nothing wrong with a nativity set displayed on the end table, or a menorah on the mantel, I wouldn’t plaster the home with religious memorabilia. This goes along with my general advice of “less is more” when it comes to decorating your home while it’s on the market.

I hope this advice has been beneficial for those of you pondering how to handle the holidays! I’m always happy to stop by and give my honest advice. Don’t hesitate to reach out as you’re preparing for the holidays this year!

About the Author: Susan McCallion Island Resident and Broker of McCallion & McCallion Realty.



NEW STYLES IN TILE

by Kathryn Weber

Tile has been around for millennia and graced palaces and walls from ancient times to today's homes. It has staying power because it's almost indestructible, looks terrific and comes in so many styles, colors and options. Tile, like all things decorative, changes with times; but many styles are classic and timeless. If you've been bored by tile before, that's all about to change.

PLACEMENT

Before making a commitment to tile, it's always a good idea to consider the type of tile you're selecting and where it will be used. For instance, a smooth, glossy surface looks clean and elegant, but it shows smudges and smears easily and may not be good underfoot. A raw stone tile is also gorgeous, but it would be hard to clean in a kitchen or shower area. Textured tile is also making inroads; but in certain areas, like a shower, the texture may require more cleaning and upkeep.

TRENDS TODAY

Some of the most popular trends in tile have a retro feel. Whether it's the mid-century look of pink or turquoise tile rimmed with black or the honeycomb of a hundred years ago, certain looks are now back in style. The honeycomb, or hexagon, style has both a vintage and current feel to it. Honeycomb tiles can be found in simple white



porcelain, marble, a metallic finish or colored porcelain. For something more current, try a black hexagon tile with white grout. It's simplicity that retains an ageless appeal.

TEXTURES

Some of the newest styles of tile are textured tile. Rather than being flat and one-dimensional, textured tile adds visual interest. A wall of textured tile makes an interesting accent wall outside the bathroom, or you may want to consider adding one at the end of a long hallway or in a foyer.

Other interesting textures include beveled subway tile, or, for something

that has a textured look and visual interest but with easy maintenance, try mermaid's tail tiles. The texture is beguiling and looks especially pretty in the colors of blue and green of the mythical mermaid.

For all the warmth of wood without the upkeep, try a wood-looking tile on floors or walls. Wood look tiles come in every shade, from pale aspen to deep cherry.

TRENDING

Always classic and enduring is beautiful white marble tile with gray veining. Warm it up by mixing other tiles, like hexagon and subway. Patterns like herringbone and

chevron and very popular right now, and also making waves are geometric tile patterns that take you back to your high school geometry class.

For something really up to the minute, check out the encaustic, or cement, tiles that are bursting with style and playful patterns. These tiles are reminiscent of the tiles of turn of the century buildings or like the bright and captivating styles of tiles from Spain or Portugal. They add an explosion of pattern wherever they're placed. ■

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LIFESTYLE TRENDS HELP SHAPE THE NEW 'MUST-HAVES' IN NEW HOMES

by BPT

Home design is constantly evolving as our society changes. In today's plugged-in world, homeowners are looking for a place to unwind and spend time with family and friends. Many are also looking for a sense of community. And an increasingly aging population is also influencing how homes are designed.

Here are some trends homebuyers will see in new homes today:

KITCHEN CENTRAL

Today's home designs are all about casual living. Gone are the formal parlors and living rooms. Instead, the kitchen has become the heart of the home. Kitchens and their surrounding gathering spaces are being given maximum real estate by home designers. Dining rooms have become nonessential, as kitchens expand and absorb family seating areas.

As the kitchen becomes an increasingly important part of the home, the trend is also to add more technology to the area. Wi-Fi-enabled home automation technology is becoming standard in many new homes, and plug-in stations in the kitchen are also a must.

GETTING OUTSIDE

The other increasingly popular place for the family to hang out is

outside. Outdoor living areas—often with fireplaces or fire pits, sofas and televisions—are becoming more and more essential in home design. And as the action moves to the backyard, the line between indoors and outdoors is becoming more blurred through the use of stacking or accordion-style glass doors that can turn a wall into an open space.

FLEXIBLE SPACE

Look for more areas in the home that don't have a dedicated purpose. That extra room could become a suite for an aging relative or a quiet office for a family member working from home. In 2016, 43 percent of the nation's workforce spent part of the time working remotely, according to a Gallup poll released in February. Flex rooms can be easily transformed from one purpose or another without costly renovations.

HEALTHY LIVING

Green building is going mainstream. As homebuyers are becoming more aware of indoor environmental hazards, such as volatile organic compounds (VOCs are gases from chemically produced material), the trend is toward healthy paints, high-efficiency heating and air-conditioning units and the use of natural materials. Natural materials are also becoming popular as an antidote to technology. Look for

more tactile, warm surfaces such as wood and cork.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Government mandates as well as homeowner demands are spurring the increase of a new home's efficiency. Solar power, better insulation and windows with increased thermal performance will continue to become features. Energy-efficient, flexible LED lighting is also changing the way homes are illuminated, from strips lights for safety to chandeliers for a touch of glam.

Water conservation is also becoming more and more important, and gray-water technologies are emerging that allow for some recycled water to be used for irrigation.

AGING IN PLACE

America's aging population is also influencing home design. Older residents are looking for smaller, single-story homes that are easily navigable. As more and more baby boomers are turning 65, universal design is becoming increasingly important, and designers are discovering that accessibility doesn't come at the cost of style. For example, flush-floor showers with built-in seating and partial doors can be both elegant and functional.

FINDING COMMUNITY

Technology is also affecting the types of neighborhoods homeowners are seeking. Getting away from the screen and making real connections

is becoming increasingly important as work and social media take up large chunks of the day. Homebuyers are looking not only for a home but also for a community. New-home projects, whether single-family or multifamily developments, are adding fitness centers, clubhouses and barbecue areas where people can socialize.

New homes will continue to evolve with our increasing use of high-tech innovations. And homebuilders will continue to find a balance between our desire to be plugged in and our need to unplug. ■

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CLEVER WAYS TO DISGUISE THE EYESORE THAT IS INTERIOR SUPPORT POSTS

by Kathryn Weber

If you have a large lower room or basement, it's very possible you have a support post. A support post can also show up in awkward locations in a house. So, how do you keep the post—and the vital support it provides—and make it look attractive? There is a multitude of ways to cover up a column and make it less of an architectural blight, while making it functional and attractive too.

CALL ATTENTION TO IT

It may seem counterintuitive, but sometimes the best way to hide something is to actually make it more prominent and turn it into a feature.

One way to add interest to a support pole is to make the post much larger and more interesting by turning it

into something else. For instance, taking a skinny post and turning it into a large round column painted a bright color is one way to take it from being a visual interruption to a visual interest.

Because it commands more space, the post can actually be a delineation point in the room, helping separate one area from another. There are some kits to turn a pole into a round column. You still end up with a nicer looking post, but still a post.

THOUGHTS ON BOXING

Even if it's tempting to build a box around a support post, in the end, it's still a post, with pretty molding, stuck in the center of the room. An alternative is to box it in with sheetrock, then make it disappear. One way to do that is to construct a larger box around the post and then

mirror the four sides. A mirror will reflect the room, add more light and make the post seemingly disappear.

Still another way to hide the post is to blend it into the room. One way to make the post much less prominent and still retain the openness of the room is to build a pony wall, or half wall, and work the post into the wall. This way the wall, with the post, becomes a design feature. In rooms that are wide and open, such as a basement, this is a terrific way to delineate areas for different activities. One area could be a games area, while the other becomes a spot for lounging or watching television. Pony walls will keep the view of the room open and work in an unattractive post seamlessly.

CONVERSIONS

Instead of a single post, try adding

a second post and shelves. This then turns the support post into a room divider. Box in your support pole, and add a second box and then shelves in between. You could do this with multiple shelves, or as a single unit. You then have a disguised post and a place to display items or add barstool seating.

For posts that are close to a wall or a corner, it might be worth considering boxing in the corner with walls to create a closet or a craft space. You could also add a short shelf between the boxed-in post and the wall to create a corner area that would be perfect for a chair and small table.

Take your support post and turn it into a feature and your basement will become more inviting and enjoyable. ■

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DIY UPGRADES

Meet Your New Neighbors!

John & Joleen Raho just purchased a home on Henderson Road!

Hello! We are John and Joleen Raho, most recently from Elmira, New York, and now, with the help of Elise Porter-Dean and McCallion & McCallion Realty, we are happy residents of Sanibel Island! In addition, we've brought the heart of our family, Barnaby, our Bernese Mountain dog.

Although John was a frequent visitor to Sanibel as a youth, the island is a new destination for me. When asked why we chose Sanibel, the true answer is for the small island community. We have already joined the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club, the Rec Center, and we volunteer with SCCF each week. We have plans to get involved with CROW, and F.I.S.H, and the Shell Museum, and and and... but the best part, by far, is the people that we have met, and the friendships we've already begun to nurture.

We couldn't possibly convey the happiness we feel, the dreams we have, and the part we hope to play in this very special tropical place!

Sincerely,
John, Joleen & Barnaby



collectibles

THIS IS WHY PEOPLE ARE SCOURING THEIR
PRECIOUS MOMENTS COLLECTIONS

by Lisa Gutierrez

This is the headline that started it all: "Your Precious Moments figurine could be worth thousands."

The "Today" show touched off a little frenzy when a story last week about Precious Moments collectibles pointed out one particular figurine that might be worth a stack of bucks.

The iconic child figurines with their recognizable teardrop-shaped eyes hail from Carthage, Mo., where the company is based, and have been around since the 1970s.

The figurine suddenly in the news is called according to "Today." It depicts a little girl giving away free puppies.

That figurine, widely considered the most valuable of all Precious Moments pieces, "has had valuations placed on it ... in excess of \$2,000," Paul Burton, a spokesperson for Woolvey Fine Antiques & Collectibles, told "Today."

"I don't believe I have seen one actually sell for more than half of that, although they are still occasionally listed for sale in that price range," Burton said.

The figurine originally retailed for \$15 but now sellers on eBay ask hundreds of dollars for it, though it's unclear how many actually get that much. It was discontinued in 1981, according to Replacements, Ltd.

"There really isn't another stand-out I can think of that would be close to this price," Burton said.

Those words set off a minor commotion on Facebook, where comments ranged from "maybe we should have held onto mom's Precious Moments after all" to "do you have this one, Grandma?"

"Today" noted that if you find one of the figurines, small chips and cracks can dramatically diminish its worth.

Which means if it fell off Grandma's shelf, you might be out of luck. ■

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... "GOD LOVETH A CHEERFUL GIVER" ... WAS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL 21 PRECIOUS MOMENTS COLLECTIBLES RELEASED IN 1979.

WOLFGANG PUCK



THYME-STEAMED STUFFED CHICKEN LEGS WITH WATERCRESS SAUCE

Up to several hours ahead of serving time, make the filling: Heat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add the olive oil. When the oil is hot, add the onions and sauté for 1 minute. Add the mushrooms and chopped chicken breast, and sauté, breaking up the chicken with a wooden spoon, until the mushrooms begin to give off their liquid and the chicken is no longer pink. Season with salt and pepper.

Remove from the heat and add the port. Turn down the heat slightly, return the pan to the heat, and cook until the port is reduced by about one quarter, taking care not to let the vapors from the port ignite. Add the chicken broth and cook for 2 minutes longer.

With a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken-mushroom mixture to a bowl. Return the pan to the heat and reduce the liquid to a syrupy consistency, about 5 minutes. Add the reduced liquid to the chicken mixture. Add the parsley and stir well. Set aside to cool.

Season the chicken legs inside and out with salt and pepper. Place the legs on a clean work surface, skin-side down. Place about 1/4 cup of the cooled filling inside the boned portion of each leg. Fold the meat neatly over the filling and secure closed with a wooden toothpick.

To steam the chicken legs, combine the chicken stock, reserved bones, thyme, and olive oil in the bottom of a steamer or in a saucepan large enough to support a steamer basket. Bring the steaming liquid to a boil.

Place the steamer basket over the steaming liquid. Add the chicken legs in a single layer and cover. Steam until the chicken is cooked through, about 25 minutes.

Remove the chicken legs from the steamer and keep warm while you make the sauce. Place 1/2 cup of the steaming liquid in a blender. Add the watercress, cover, and blend well, following the manufacturer's instructions to avoid splattering. With the blender running on low speed, add the butter a little bit at a time. Season with salt, pepper, and lemon juice.

To serve, slice the boneless part of each chicken leg crosswise into 3 slices. Spoon some sauce on a plate and top with the chicken leg, slightly overlapping the sliced, stuffed thigh pieces. ■

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INGREDIENTS

FOR THE STUFFED CHICKEN LEGS:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small onion, minced
- 2 ounces button mushrooms, quartered
- 8 ounces boneless, skinless chicken breast, coarsely ground or chopped
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 cup port
- 1/2 cup chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh Italian parsley leaves
- 4 whole chicken legs with thighs, thigh bones removed by butcher and reserved for steaming liquid

FOR STEAMING:

- 1 quart chicken broth or stock
- 3 or 4 fresh thyme sprigs
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- For the watercress sauce:
 - 1/2 bunch watercress
 - 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, cut into small pieces
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 lemon, juiced



BONDS VS. STOCKS – THE NEXT ROUND

YOUR MONEY

by Timothy P. Vick

Market strategists seem eminently conflicted at the moment. At a time when macroeconomic conditions are relatively benign, even upward sloping, the financial markets are throwing off mixed signals that have stock and bond investors wondering how to allocate portfolios. On the one hand, broad economic data from the U.S., Europe, and Asia continue to show that the nine-year expansion in production and lending that began in 2009 remains intact. This has pushed up equity prices to new highs. The data also show that values of U.S. businesses continue to climb due to improved sales prospects, rising returns on capital, and effective use of cash flows.

Yet, bond markets seem to portend an end to the expansion. Interest rates dropped in recent months, and inflationary pressures that once seemed imminent have dissipated. Most importantly, the yield curve on government



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bonds has “flattened,” meaning that short-term and long-term bond yields have converged – historically, that has signaled a softening economy.

These mixed signals, taken at face value, pose difficulty for managers who are trying to extend returns for clients and keep risk levels moderate. An economic slowdown would most certainly hold interest rates lower for longer, hurting both stock investors looking for growth and fixed-income investors needing higher yields. Better economic growth, however, would justify the stock market’s rally and give us continued opportunities to plant higher levels of income within portfolios.

Whether you’re desiring stocks or bonds, much hinges on economic growth and the movement of interest rates in 2017. The positive data – improved loan demand around the world, tighter job markets, strengthened bank balance sheets, and revived capital spending – all point to more normal economic growth going forward and continued modest

increases in interest rates. But we are watching closely sluggish U.S. productivity levels and retail consumption, both of which can naturally put a

“lock in” such yields for many clients today if they existed, but they cannot given the “New Normal” lower levels of money demand and economic activity.

“... the financial markets are throwing off mixed signals that have stock and bond investors wondering how to allocate portfolios.”

ceiling on GDP growth and keep it below policy makers’ 3% targets.

We’ll be guided by three trends as we navigate the tradeoffs between stocks and bonds:

A return to pre-Recession yields seems very unlikely to us. Prior to 2008, money-market funds yielded more than 5%, as did corporate bonds and municipal debt. We would

Total returns on stocks and bonds are falling after multi-year rallies in both asset classes. Stocks, however, remain the preferred investment by a longshot. An investor who buys a 5% coupon-paying bond today faces the possibility of watching the bond drop 3% a year in price until maturity, for a total return of just 2%. Equity investors should benefit from near 10% earnings growth

in 2017 and 2018, but with stocks trading at cyclically high premiums to earnings and cash flows, chances are good that investors ultimately obtain returns below companies’ earnings growth.

Our fixed-income strategy will have to stay nimble and evolve as we look for the best lower-risk income opportunities available at a given moment. Since 2008, we have ignored traditional government debt (where yields have nosedived well below 3%) and have alternately taken advantage of oversold corporate bonds, high-yield bonds, utilities, preferred stocks, REITs, oil and gas partnerships, and high-dividend paying blue-chip stocks. We will keep fishing these ponds until government debt offers adequate yields to compensate clients for the price risks. ■

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senior companions

PETS HELP SENIORS STAY HEALTHIER AND HAPPIER, WHEREVER THEY LIVE, STUDIES SHOW

by BPT

French novelist Sidonie-Gabrielle Collette once said, “Our perfect companions never have fewer than four feet.” Pets provide meaningful social support for owners, and they can be especially beneficial for seniors. Ample research shows pet ownership delivers physical and mental health benefits for seniors, regardless of whether they’re living on their own or in a senior living community.

However, many older Americans still mistakenly believe moving into a senior living community means they’ll have to leave their pets behind. In fact, the fear they’ll have to give up a beloved pet is among the top emotional reasons seniors don’t want to move into senior living, according to author and senior real estate specialist Bruce Nemovitz. In an informal survey by Nemovitz, seniors ranked losing a pet as emotionally jarring as having to leave their familiar homes and possessions.

“Senior living communities like Brookdale Senior Living are all about supporting the physical health and mental well-being of residents,” says

Carol Cummings, senior director of Optimum Life. “For many senior citizens, pets are an important part of their lives. It makes sense to preserve the bond between pet and senior owner whenever possible.”

PHYSICAL BENEFITS

Pet ownership benefits senior citizens in multiple ways, research shows. Older people who own dogs are likely to spend 22 additional minutes walking at a moderately intense pace each day, according to a recent study by The University of Lincoln and Glasgow Caledonian University. Published in BioMed Central, the study also found dog owners took more than 2,700 more steps per day than non-owners.

Multiple studies have also concluded that pet ownership can help lower blood pressure, contribute to improved cardiovascular health and reduce cholesterol.

MENTAL HEALTH

Interacting with pets also has many mental health benefits, especially for seniors. Spending time with pets can help relieve anxiety and increase brain levels of the feel-good neurochemicals serotonin and dopamine. Pets can help relieve

depression and feelings of loneliness.

The online journal Current Gerontology and Geriatrics Research reports multiple studies indicate dementia patients who interact with animals become more social, are less agitated and have fewer behavioral issues.

PETS IN SENIOR LIVING SETTINGS

“For too long, some senior living communities didn’t recognize the value of allowing residents to bring their pets with them,” Cummings says. “That has definitely changed.”

For seniors looking for a community that will accept their pets, Cummings suggests a few questions to ask:

- What is your pet policy and what type of animal do you consider a pet? Generally, small dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, rats, hamsters, fish, turtles and other small companion animals qualify for pet policies. Seniors should check to be sure their pet meets the standards of the community.
- What is your pet health policy? Typically, senior living
- What, if any, kind of training do you require pets to have? Requiring dogs to be house-trained and cats to be litter-trained is standard. Communities will also want to know your pet is well-behaved and not aggressive. They may ask you to have pets obedience trained.
- Do you offer any assistance with pet-related tasks? Most

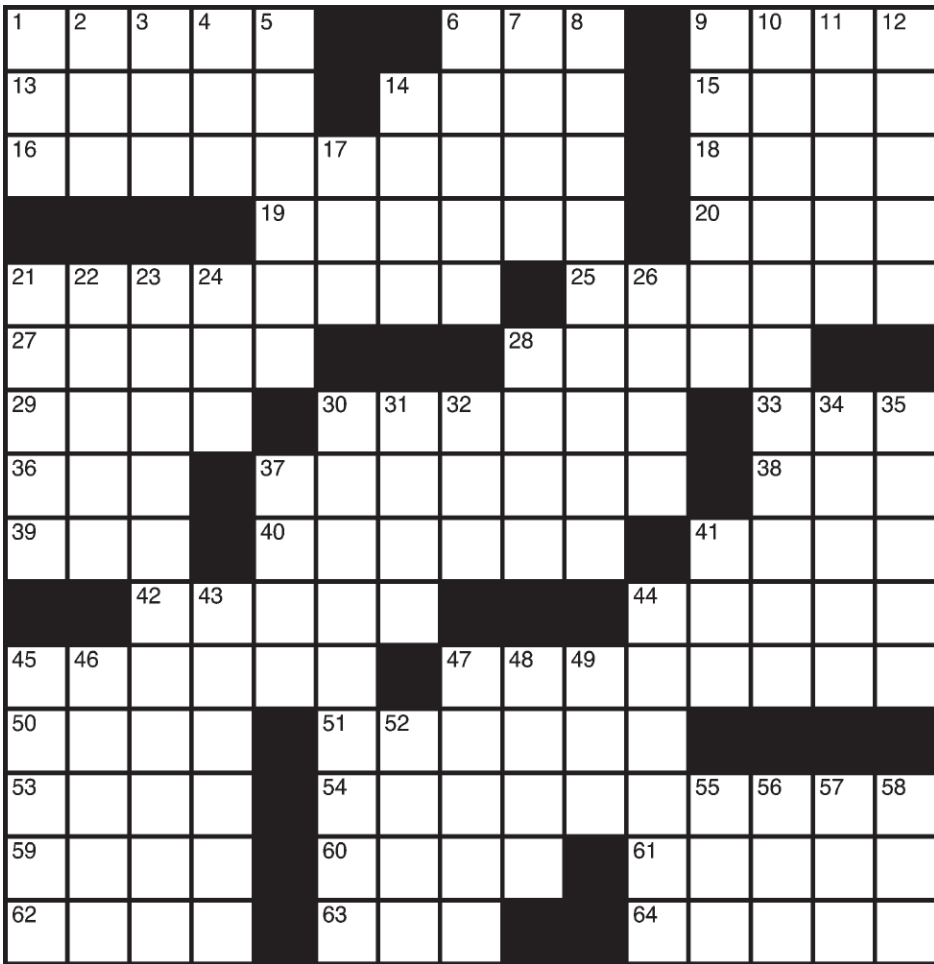


communities that accept small pets will want them to be current on all vaccinations and have regular exams by a licensed veterinarian. Pets will also need to have any required state- or county-issued licenses.

communities will require residents be able to care for pets themselves, including feeding, walking, potty needs and health needs.

“Moving into a senior living community is a big change, one that most residents find positive,” Cummings says. “They gain freedom from home maintenance tasks and household chores, a socially rewarding environment, and as-needed support for healthcare and daily care. As long as seniors are still able to care for their pets, there’s no reason they shouldn’t be allowed to bring their best friends with them to their new homes.” ■

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Drink-cooling shapes
- 6 Family girl
- 9 Neighborhood
- 13 Seize
- 14 So very uncool
- 15 Mascara target
- 16 Where hockey transgressors cool their heels
- 18 Issue a ticket to
- 19 Shout of discovery
- 20 Draft classification
- 21 Future attorney's hurdle
- 25 Where sleeping dogs lie
- 27 "Give me a break!"
- 28 Decide one will
- 29 Sound confirming a locked car door
- 30 Oil-bearing rocks
- 33 Jimmy Fallon asset
- 36 Go wrong
- 37 June 14th observance ... and a hint to the first word in the answers to starred clues
- 38 Sudoku section
- 39 Camping gear brand
- 40 Winner's wreath
- 41 Voice quality
- 42 Film snippets
- 44 TV's "Kate & ___"
- 45 "The ability to fully experience life," per Thoreau

- 47 Polite applause on the tee
- 50 "Money ___ object"
- 51 Sandy or Roberto of baseball
- 53 Catch sight of
- 54 Vessel for Captain Jack Sparrow
- 59 Fired, with "off"
- 60 Look carefully
- 61 Gravel unit
- 62 Colors, as hair
- 63 NFL gains
- 64 Cackling scavenger

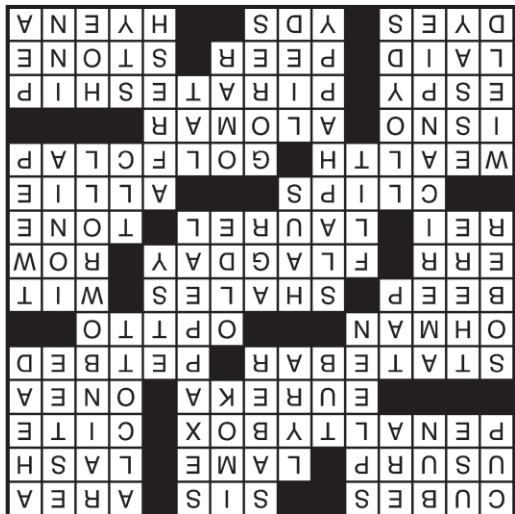
just for fun

DOWN

- 1 Many a sports trophy
- 2 Function
- 3 Hot dog holder
- 4 Notable time
- 5 Organ associated with ill temper
- 6 "Light" sci-fi weapon
- 7 "Don't worry about me"
- 8 Physical attractiveness
- 9 "Little Women" novelist
- 10 Colorful sushi creation
- 11 Perfumer Lauder
- 12 Down the road
- 14 Harp constellation
- 17 Shower stall alternative, if it fits
- 21 Unloaded?
- 22 "At last!"
- 23 "Drove my Chevy to the levee" Don McLean hit
- 24 Water source
- 26 Online crafts shop
- 28 Shoppe adjective
- 30 Silly to the extreme
- 31 Fräulein's abode
- 32 Farm sci.
- 34 Ancient Greek region
- 35 Follower on Twitter, informally
- 37 Fly like a moth
- 41 Affectionate attention, briefly
- 43 London insurance giant
- 44 From scratch
- 45 Exercise, as power
- 46 Thoreau work
- 47 Second family of the 1990s
- 48 "Rubáiyát" poet
- 49 Zero deg. at the equator, say
- 52 Told tall tales
- 55 Oinker's pen
- 56 Clod chopper
- 57 Ramada ___
- 58 Green soup base

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PUZZLE answers



4	8	6	5	1	3	7	2	4	8	6	5	1	3	7	2	
2	2	1	6	1	8	1	6	1	8	1	6	1	8	1	6	1
3	3	5	7	2	9	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8	4	3	1	9	5	6	2	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
1	2	5	7	6	8	3	4	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
6	7	9	4	3	2	8	1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
7	3	4	2	8	1	9	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
5	6	2	9	7	4	1	3	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
9	1	8	3	5	6	2	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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A ₁	I ₁	Y ₄	L ₁	S ₁	B ₃	L ₁	RACK 1
E ₁	I ₁	I ₁	O ₁	Z ₁₀	D ₂	L ₁	RACK 2
A ₁	O ₁	O ₁	T ₁	R ₁	M ₃	D ₂	RACK 3
E ₁	U ₁	H ₄	M ₃	T ₁	B ₃	D ₂	RACK 4
E ₁	O ₁	U ₁	R ₁	S ₁	Z ₁₀	B ₃	RACK 5

PAR SCORE 270-280
BEST SCORE 360
 DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**
 For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA-North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

Sudoku

created by Crosswords Ltd.

9								7	
	6	2	9					3	
	3			8			9	5	6
							8	1	5
8	4	3							
3	5	7		2				8	
	9				7			6	
	8								2

What Island Residents Have To Say...

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

07/05/2016 - Mark T.
 Purchased and Sold a Home in Sanibel, FL

- Local knowledge: ★★★★★
- Process expertise: ★★★★★
- Responsiveness: ★★★★★
- Negotiation skills: ★★★★★

"My wife and I have worked with Susan and Jim since 2012. In fact, we've both bought and sold a home with the McCallion team. Susan and her staff are not only real estate professionals but also people of good will.

We were pleased to work with the friendly, easy going office staff that is great at keeping on top of the transaction process. Susan herself is a skilled negotiator and creative problem solver. We are grateful for her friendship and support during times of transition for our family."

I Need Help!

I have 12 buyers looking for a bayside or canal access home on Sanibel Island. Please call or email me if you or someone you know is interested in selling their Sanibel home!



Susan McCallion, 239-472-1950
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★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

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-- Barry M. | February, 2017

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