

The Good Neighbor Gazette

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Good News from your Real Estate Professional

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Hud.gov Gets a facelift



The US Department of Housing and Urban Development website has recently received a visual stimulus package on their website. And whether you're a first time home buyer or veteran real estate investor, you'll find that the clean looking new site is easier to navigate if you're looking for important information by state or by program type.

Savvy users will also notice that HUD.gov is going social with links for RSS feeds, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Flickr built right into the header of every page of their site.

So if your looking to buy a home or avoid foreclosure, find rental assistance, apply for a grant, talk to a housing counselor, or get involved with your community, HUD.gov has a few good resources for you!

Winter Driving



The holiday season is upon us. And for some of us that means long drives to visit family and friends. But during this festive season, it pays to be prepared when encountering Wintery road conditions. Here are a few tips from our friends at the Department of Transportation.

Use slower acceleration and slower speeds. Avoid heavy or abrupt steering and braking. Allow extra time to reach your destination during inclement weather. It is not worth putting your own life or the lives of others in danger to save time.

- Drive with your headlights on.
- Don't get overconfident with four-wheel drive. It won't help you stop any faster.
- Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances. Give yourself room. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you don't have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal.
- Slow down when approaching intersections, off-ramps, bridges or shady spots. These all have potential to

develop black ice.

- Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking or accelerating to lessen your chance of losing control.
- Look farther ahead in traffic. Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra reaction time.
- Trucks take longer to stop. Don't cut in front of them.
- Avoid using cruise control or overdrive. Don't let your car make a bad decision for you.

And remember to check with your local Department of Transportation website for traffic updates, weather conditions, and traffic cameras before making those big holiday trips!



Christmas Trivia

Did you know?

From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

"Thrice happy is the nation that has a glorious history. Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checkered by failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat." --Theodore Roosevelt



December Events

- 12 Hanukkah
- 25 Christmas
- 26 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve

Baked Sweet Potato Sticks

- allrecipies.com

You've heard of Chicken and JoJo's, but have you heard of Turkey and Sweet Potato Sticks?

Check out this simple and sweet compliment to a big roasted bird!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 8 sweet potatoes, sliced lengthwise into quarters



DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray or vegetable oil.
2. In a large bowl, mix oil and paprika. Add potato sticks, and stir by hand to coat. Place on the prepared baking sheet.
3. Bake 40 minutes in the preheated oven. Best eaten at room temperature.

What is flickr?

Everyone has at least three ways to take a digital photograph these days. Whether it's with a professional digital SLR, a point and shoot digital unit, or a built in camera



on a smart phone, we're all equipped with ways of capturing a moment on (digital) film.

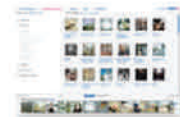
With everyone snapping photos, there has to be a fun way to share them with our communities, right? That's what flickr's for. Flickr offers a free place for people to upload photos and images to share them others online.

Some use it to stay in touch with family. Bloggers use it to host images for their blogs. Web designers use it for photo galleries for websites. Others might use it to simply explore what the rest of the world is uploading.

Whatever your purpose is for using flickr, most would agree that it's fun and easy to use. Try it out today!



Share & stay in touch



Upload & organize



Crop, fix, edit



Explore...

If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.

This is not intended as a solicitation if your property is currently listed with another agent.

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Please visit my website for a full description of the new revised Tax Credit for New Home Buyers and for Current Home Owners.

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