

"Wat's New?"

From Watson's Realty

June 2010

Life As It Happens

Grandson Riley just turned seven. Seven! Where did the last seven years go? And we're almost half way through this year already. Pretty soon we'll be saying we can't believe it's Christmas.

Riley continues to make me laugh. He was staying overnight recently and told me he wanted to dance. So we moved the furniture in the office aside and I found some rock and roll music on the computer -- you know, something easy to dance to.

Once the music started Riley said he didn't want that kind of music. He wanted to dance to some heavy metal music. Heavy metal? Okay, so I typed "heavy metal" into the computer and came up with a list of songs. I started playing the first song but Riley didn't like that one. I tried another one but he didn't like that song either.

I told him that they were both heavy metal songs and asked him if he knew the name of a song that he wanted. "I don't know Nonna" he said, "something from Alvin and the Chipmunks."

It was all I could do to keep from laughing. I never did figure out why he thinks that Alvin and the Chipmunks are a heavy metal band, but at least it was easy and fun to dance to!

Other than dancing with Riley, things have been quiet around here. I'm enjoying going outside every day to check on my tomatoes, onions, basil and flowers. I've got a few green tomatoes already and am pretty excited about seeing them grow and waiting for them to turn the right color.

I recently transplanted a small tree I have that had outgrown it's pot. It was looking really weak so I figured it was getting root bound. Sure enough, as soon as I transplanted it into the ground I knew I'd make the right decision. Within a couple of days it looked greener and started getting new purple flowers on it. It made me feel good to do all that work to bring it new life.

And we finally had some sod laid in our front yard where we had a big dirt patch. The gardener had to jackhammer out some cement dividers, square off some corners, put in new sprinklers and then put the new grass in.

We were really busy in April and May with real estate. A lot of folks were trying to get into escrow before the May 30th deadline for the federal tax credit. Now it seems as though we're back to a "normal" market, although I would like to be busier. Know anyone who wants to buy or sell a house? I need something to do besides garden and dance! 😊

I also got a chance to start doing a little painting in the house. I was at a friend's house recently and she had painted one wall of her living room with a black semi-gloss paint. It was really striking!

I wasn't quite brave enough to do a big wall, so I chose the end of my hallway leading into the hall bath. It's only about 8 feet wide with a doorway so if I didn't like it

Inside This Issue

- A Father Is...
- Something To Sing About
- Don't Trash Those Old Gift Cards!
- Swim Lessons: No Substitute For Supervision
- Golf Truisms
- Random Thoughts
- How To Handle Interruptions
- We Want Watermelon!
- Christmas In July?
- How To Conquer Shyness

I wouldn't have too much extra painting to do to cover it up.

It looks great! I added some artwork and a gold framed mirror and I really like it. It's a bold move, but it's fun to think outside the box now and then. And I know it's not too strange or anything. My brother was visiting recently and he didn't even notice it. I had to point it out to him.

Poor Scott hurt his back a few days ago. He was helping one of our clients move some things into storage and he tried to lift and turn at the same time which, as we know, is not a good combination. A trip to the chiropractor and some ice and he's feeling better but still moving a little slow. He's more worried about it affecting his golf game than anything else.

He has really been bitten by the golf bug. He got his second hole-in-one not too long ago at our local nine hole course on Stevenson Boulevard. His next goal is to break 80 - and I think he's getting pretty close. It's exciting to hear him talk about how much he enjoys it, although I have to admit that when he starts talking golf with some of his friends and they start comparing the ins and outs of golf and recalling in minute detail about a recent golf shot, my eyes start to glaze over a little. 😊

Enjoy life!



JK & Scott Watson

Your Real Estate Friends for Life!

A Father Is...

A father is neither an anchor to hold us back, nor a sail to take us there, but a guiding light whose love shows us the way.

A father is someone you look up to no matter how tall you grow.

A father is a truly rich man if his children run into his arms when his hands are empty.

A father is a man who expects his son to be as good a man as he meant to be.

A father is someone who carries pictures in his wallet where his money used to be.

Something To Sing About

We know how to sing it – but do we know anything about the origins of our national anthem? Here's a bit of background on *The Star-Spangled Banner* :

The Star-Spangled Banner, adopted as the national anthem of the United States in 1931, traces its origins to September 14, 1814 when U.S. soldiers at Baltimore's Fort McHenry raised a huge American flag to celebrate a crucial victory over British forces during the War of 1812. The sight of those "broad stripes and bright stars" inspired Francis Scott Key to write a poem of four verses (although we usually sing only the first). The melody Key used was from a popular English tune written about 1775. The actual flag that flew over Fort McHenry and inspired Key to pen the anthem is now owned by the Museum of American History in Washington, DC; you can see it at <http://americanhistory.si.edu>.



Christmas In July?

Think it's too soon to start thinking about the holidays? It's not. Time management experts say the key to making the winter holidays less stressful is to get an early start, and spread your holiday tasks over several months. Here are some suggestions, starting now:

July: Make up a gift idea list for family and friends.

August: Update your holiday card mailing list; determine how many cards you'll need this year and dig out leftover cards from previous years.

September: Begin ordering or buying gifts; order or buy additional cards.

October: Finish buying presents and wrap them; decide where you'll spend the holidays and make arrangements; address your cards and purchase stamps; if you're hosting a holiday event, put together a list of everything you'll need: food ingredients, beverages, ice, and so on.



November: Start sending presents; write up holiday cards, then mail them in early December; decorate the house or at least locate the decorations – sort which decorations to keep or dispose of, and test holiday lights.

December: Celebrate a much-less-stressed holiday season!



If you think you're too small to make an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito in the room. ★ Betty Reese



How To Conquer Shyness

Even the most successful people have moments when they feel shy and uncomfortable. For most of us, meeting new people is difficult, and making conversation with someone we've just met can feel like getting a tooth pulled. The good news is you can overcome and control your shyness. Here are some strategies for becoming the life of the party – or at least not the wallflower:

Explore the causes. Shyness is usually caused by excessive self-consciousness, a negative self-image, or excessive preoccupation with yourself – or a combination of all three. When you're feeling shy, analyze your thoughts and emotions to find out what's holding you back. You'll be better able to address the problem when you understand what's behind it.

Underline your own strengths. Instead of thinking about what you can't do in social situations, remind yourself of what you're good at. Most of us usually don't have trouble talking about subjects where we feel confident and experienced. Focus on these areas instead of any flaws you think you may have.

Focus on other people. Ask questions that let other people talk, and encourage them to open up and share their opinions. You'll be less worried about saying something wrong, and you'll probably find enough common ground on which to build a real conversation.

Practice greeting people. Make a point of saying "hello" to the people you see every day – the bus driver, the barista at your coffee shop, your coworkers, and so on. Once you get into the habit, you'll find it easier to smile and offer a friendly greeting to the people you meet in social situations.

Look your best. You don't need a complete makeover, but you'll feel more confident if you know you're presenting yourself well. Work with someone you trust on wardrobe and grooming issues. Don't overdo it – just be sure you're appropriate for the occasion.

How To Handle Interruptions

It's annoying when someone interrupts you while you're talking. Here are a few strategies for handling interrupters:

- Hold up your index finger. You may be surprised at how effective this can be.
- Say, "Wait a minute, I'm not done with what I'm saying..."
- Wait until the interrupter has finished, then say, "What I was trying to say was..."

The next time someone interrupts you, use it as an opportunity to do something rather than just get upset. Pause, then say, "I wasn't finished; hear me out." Or pause, then tell the person how it makes you feel when you are cut off – without attacking the person.

Here are a few lines that might help:

- "Please let me finish..."
- "It's really hard for me to listen to you right now because you didn't let me finish what I was saying."
- "When I'm talking to you and you interrupt me, it makes me feel like you're not interested in what I'm saying."



The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress. ★

Joseph Joubert (1754–1824)

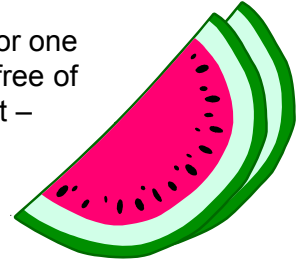
French Philosopher



We Want Watermelon!

Watermelon is a delicious and healthy summertime treat. A two-cup serving is only 80 calories and contains a fourth of the recommended daily value of Vitamin C and a fifth of the required Vitamin A. Watermelon also contains dietary fiber, potassium, and lycopene, an anti-cancer phytochemical. Because it's 92 percent water, it's an excellent way to replenish fluids.

To select a ripe melon, look for one that's firm, symmetrical and free of bruises, cuts, or dents. Tap it – it should sound hollow. Turn it over – the underside should be a pale or creamy yellow.



SAVE FREMONT STUDENTS...

is a grass-roots campaign started by concerned Parents in partnership with Fremont Education Foundation (FEF) and FUSD to raise \$4.5M by July 15th to address the worst impacts of the budget cuts, class size increases and cuts to Science, PE, and Music teachers. Go to www.SaveFremontStudents.org to find out how to help!

Do You Know The Watsons?

If you see Scott or JK at an Open House, on the street, in a store, or anywhere, just say "hi!"

We like meeting people and we're not shy about giving away gift certificates. Just tell us you "know" us somehow, whether you recognize us, you read our newsletter, or we look like our pictures - or even better in person (wink, wink) Just say something and enjoy eating out at Saki's Spin-A-Yarn.

You might have to tell us who you are - just in case we don't have a gift certificate with us, we want to know where to mail it!



Not redeemable for cash.

Don't Trash Those Old Gift Cards!

Do you have a gift card in your wallet with 18 cents left on it?

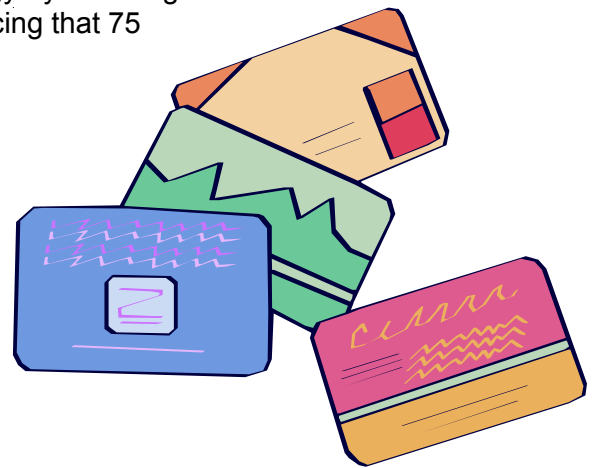
When you decide to part with that card, don't throw it in the trash. It's probably made from PVC which stands for *polyvinyl chloride*, and our landfill is *not* a good place for that. And while it may seem like your little gift card won't do much damage, it's estimated that 10 billion new plastic cards are placed in circulation every year, resulting in 75 million pounds of PVC material going into our landfills every year.

So, what do you do with those old gift cards? Some are biodegradable and can go into your home recycling. Some are reloadable, and the merchant will put more of your cash on it so you can continue to use it. And in some cases, the store will take back the card when you're finished with it.

Another option is mailing the cards to Earthworks System, a company that gathers millions of pounds of scrap PVC card plastic and reprocesses it into recycled sheets that are used to make new plastic cards. According to the company's Web site, Earthworks' process conserves energy by reducing the demand for new PVC, and helps protect the environment by reducing that 75 million pounds going into our landfills.

And it's not just gift cards; how about that old ID card, library card, driver's license, and hotel key cards? The company doesn't accept cards with scratch-off labels or holograms, or cards made from non-PVC material; otherwise they can be mailed to Earthworks. And while they do accept credit cards for recycling, you may feel more comfortable destroying those cards yourself.

To "go green," put your old cards in an envelope (no rubber bands, paper clips or paper, please), apply postage, and mail to:
Earthworks
c/o Halprin Industries
25840 Miles Road
Bedford, OH 44146.



To go even greener, take up a collection of PVC cards at your office, school, or in your neighborhood and ship them to Earthworks (be sure to put the name of your organization on the package so the company can track it). Another green idea: Encourage your local retailers and hotels to use Earthworks' recycled PVC cards.

Swim Lessons: No Substitute For Supervision

While it's important to teach your children to swim, the American Academy of Pediatrics is concerned that professional lessons may lead to a false sense of security among parents, especially those of very young children.

"Programs for infants and toddlers have not been shown to decrease the risk of drowning, and parents should not feel secure that their child is safe in water or safe from drowning after participating in such programs," the AAP says. "Young children should receive constant, close supervision by an adult while in and around water. Drowning is a leading cause of unintentional injury and death among children ages one and two."



Golf Truisms

Golf balls are like eggs ~ they're white. They're sold by the dozen ... and a week later you have to buy more.

A pro-shop gets its name from the fact that you have to have the income of a professional golfer to buy anything in there.

It's amazing how a golfer who never helps out around the house will replace his divots, repair his ball marks, and rake his sand traps.

When you stop to think about it, did you ever notice that it's a lot easier to get up at 6:00 a.m. to play golf than at 10:00 to mow the yard?

Golf is by far the ultimate love /hate relationship. Sometimes it seems as though your cup runneth and moveth over.

It takes longer to learn good golf than it does brain surgery. On the other hand, you seldom get to ride around on a cart, drink beer and eat hot dogs while performing brain surgery.

A good drive on the 18th hole has stopped many a golfer from giving up the game.

Water hazards are no walk in the park for fish, turtles, frogs or gators either.

Golf is the perfect thing to do on Sunday because you always end up praying a lot.

That rake by the sand trap is there for golfers who feel guilty about skipping out on lawn work.

If there's a storm rolling in, you'll be having the game of your life.

If your opponent has trouble remembering whether he shot a six or a seven, he probably shot an eight.

Golf appeals to the child in all of us. This is proven by our frequent inability to count past the number 5.

It's a simple matter to keep your ball in the fairway if you're not choosy about which fairway.

If profanity had any influence on the flight of a ball, most everyone would play better.

The greatest sound in golf is the Wosh, Wosh, Wosh, of your opponent's club as he hurls it across the fairway.

JK & Scott Watson's Realty



Call Us
510/505-0223



Fax Us
510/791-3312



E-Mail Us
WatsonsRealty@gmail.com



Go To Our Websites
www.CallTheWatsons.com
www.WatsonsForSeniors.com



Write to Us
Scott & JK Watson
4963 Mayfield Dr.
Fremont, CA 94536

We'd Like to Welcome

**Do you know of anyone
who wants to buy
or sell a house?**

**Call The Watsons!
Thanks for thinking of us!**

Random Thoughts

I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.

There's no worse feeling than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

Bad decisions make good stories.

You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment at work when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.

Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blue Ray? I don't want to have to restart my movie collection...again.

"Do not machine wash or tumble dry" means I will never wash this - ever.

I hate leaving my house confident and looking good and then not seeing anyone of importance the entire day. What a waste.

I think the freezer deserves a light as well.

Sometimes, I'll watch a movie that I watched when I was younger and suddenly realize I had no idea what the heck was going on when I first saw it.

I would rather try to carry 10 over-loaded plastic bags in each hand than take 2 trips to bring my groceries in.

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?

I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!

Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Jeans? Jeans never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.

Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.

Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone, and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey - but I'd bet you money that everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time!

Seen on a t-shirt: "Scars are like tattoos, only with a better story".



Glenmoor Neighbor Offering \$5.00 Notary

Madelynn Perez is offering her Notary Public services to neighbors for only \$5.00 per signature for the month of July.

Contact her at 408-218-6011.

Watson's Realty

JK & Scott

4963 Mayfield Dr.
Fremont, CA 94536
510/505-0223

"Wat's New?"

From The Watsons

Fremont Distribution Permit No. 1475

June Quiz Question

And the results are in for our [May Quiz Question](#)...the question was: **Which professional athlete hit a home run in a major league baseball game, and scored a touchdown in an NFL football game, in the same week in 1989?** **Answer:** Deion Sanders

Congratulations go to **Gene Klimkosky!** His name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz answers. He may choose a \$30 gift certificate to Saki's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, Trader Joe's, Macy's, Safeway or Dale Hardware.

Here's your [June Quiz Question](#) : **What is the only kind of deer whose females have antlers?**

If your name is chosen from our group of correct answers, you can choose a \$30 gift certificate to your choice of Saki's Spin-A-Yarn Restaurant, Trader Joe's, Macy's, Safeway or Dale Hardware. Good luck!

Send your answers to:

e-mail..... WatsonsRealty@gmail.com

fax..... 510/791-3312

address..... 4963 Mayfield Dr., Fremont, CA 94536

This newsletter is intended for entertainment purposes only. Credit is given to the authors of various articles that are reprinted when the original author is known. Any omission of credit to an author is purely unintentional and should not be construed as plagiarism or literary theft.

Copyright ©2010, JK Watson. This information is solely advisory, and should not be substituted for legal, financial or tax advice. Any and all financial decisions and actions must be done through the advice and counsel of a qualified attorney, financial advisor and/or CPA. We cannot be held responsible for actions you may take without proper financial, legal or tax advice.