



Between Friends



Moore Homes, Moore Listings, Moore Results™



*Wishing you and your family a
Joyous Holiday Season and a
Prosperous New Year*



For Sale 

TREND SETTER REALTY

The Don Moore Team
281-851-6310

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Did You Know..

Mistletoe is a symbol for peace and joy. The idea originated in the ancient times of the Druids: whenever enemies met under the mistletoe in the forest, they had to lay down their arms and observe a truce until the next day. From this comes the custom of hanging a ball of mistletoe from the ceiling and exchanging kisses under it as a sign of friendship and goodwill. ❖

Santa - During the American Civil War, Abraham Lincoln requested a political cartoonist, Thomas Nast, to illustrate Santa Christmas (Santa Claus) with the Union troops to bolster their spirits. Nast was the first to introduce a Father Christmas in the now-traditional red suit and big leather belt. ❖

End Of 2007 Tax Smarts

Tip 1. Most Americans who itemize their "Mortgage Interest Paid" realize that a large chunk of the monthly mortgage payment is made up of interest. The IRS lets you deduct that interest in many cases on your Itemized Deductions Form.

Think about picking up the phone or going online between the holidays and making your January payment early. Call your mortgage company to review their policy, but most will allow for a phone payment or even an online payment that will be credited on New Year's Eve.

Just so it is credited to your account this year your deductible amount will be increased for tax year 2007. Your savings with this tip can be estimated by multiplying your effective tax rate by your interest portion of that payment. It's easy to see how a few days of early payment will help.

Tip 2. Review your income and deductions: A fundamental year-end tax move is to adjust the timing of income and deductions. If your income is high, putting off receiving more income at the end of the year can save taxes. Those who are self-employed may want to send out invoices January 2nd.

Tip 3. Pay deductible expenses before Dec. 31 st: Pay property taxes early. Pay your tax preparer for your year-end planning meetings or opt to have dental work or elective surgery before the end of the year.

Tip 4. Contribute to charity: In light of the recent disasters you may feel the urge to donate. If you are cash short, do it with a credit card before Dec. 31st and pay for it next year. ❖

Your referrals mean the world to us. If you've worked with us in the past, you have experienced our dedication and commitment to ensuring your home sale or purchase was a smooth and positive experience. We promise to provide that same commitment to excellence for your family, friends and acquaintances. Please tell them about us! Don Moore (281) 851-6310 ☎ Irene Chao (832) 630-1960

HANDY TIPS

Cleaning Coffee and Tea Stains from Cups

Dip a damp cloth in baking soda and rub on the stains. Will not scratch and will remove the stains. This is good also for removing those burned stains on the edges of glass baking dishes. ❖

Tragedy in Eastern Mexico

Pocoville (MP) Mexico's worst air disaster occurred early today when a Cessna 152 crashed into a cemetery in Central Calmex. Exhausted search and rescue workers have recovered 826 bodies so far and police expect that the number to climb as digging continues into the night. ❖

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Would You Like To Know How Much Your Neighbor's House Listed or Sold For?

Maybe you're just curious. Or maybe you want to know how much equity you have in your home. Or perhaps you're thinking of selling soon and want to know how much your home has increased in value. Either way, we can help...with no "sales pitches" or runarounds. Just give us a call and we will send you the facts. ❖

THANK YOU

for reading our *Between Friends* personal newsletter. We wanted to produce a newsletter that has fun content and is valuable and beneficial to you. Your constructive feedback is always welcome.

AND... whether you're thinking of buying, selling, or investing in real estate, or just want to call and say "Hi," We'd love to hear from you...

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When you hire The Don Moore Team, you get two dedicated Agents instead of one.

A Wild Christmas For Santa

STOCKHOLM (AFP) - Christmas is hectic for all but particularly for Santa, who must live in Kyrgyzstan and make his rounds at lightning speed if he is to deliver gifts to all the world's children on time, a Swedish consultancy has concluded.

Between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, Santa Claus's route around the planet includes stops at 2.5 billion homes, assuming that children of all religions receive a present from the jolly man in the red suit, Anders Larsson of the engineering consultancy Sweco told AFP.

"We estimated that there are 48 people per square kilometer (120 per square mile) on Earth, and 20 metres (66 feet) between each home. So if Santa leaves from Kyrgyzstan and travels against the Earth's rotation he has 48 hours to deliver all the presents," he said.

Father Christmas has long been believed to reside at the North Pole, although a number of northern towns, including Finnish Rovaniemi, claim to be his true home.

But Sweco's report on Santa's most efficient route -- which takes into account factors like geographic density and the fewest detours -- shows that he wouldn't be able to make his round-the-world trip from there in time.

"He has 34 microseconds at each stop" to slide down the chimney, drop off the presents, nibble on his cookies and milk and hop back on his sleigh, Larsson said.

Santa's reindeer must travel at a speed of 5,800 kilometers (3,604 miles) per second to make the trip on time. ❖

New Year Traditions Around the World

1) **Baby New Year Tradition** - The tradition of using a baby to signify the New Year was started around 600 B.C by the ancient Greeks, who, at the start of a year would carry a baby around in a basket. The purpose of it was to honor Dionysus, the God of Fertility and symbolize his annual rebirth.

2) **Burning "Mr. Old Year"** - In Columbia, Cuba and Puerto Rico families stuff a life-size male doll with things and then they dress it up in old clothes from each family member. At the stroke of midnight, this 'Mr. Old Year' is set on fire. This is done with the simple belief that a doll thus stuffed have bad memories or sadness associated with them, and that the burning of these will help one to do away with all past griefs and usher in happiness in life with the coming year.

3) **Eating Noodles** - Late on the evening of December 31, people of Japan would eat a bowl of buckwheat noodles called "toshikoshisoba" ("year-crossing noodles") and listen for the sound of the Buddhist temple bells, which were rung 108 times at midnight. The sound of these bells is said to purify the listeners of the 108 sins or evil passions that plague every human being.

4) **Eating 12 Grapes** - In Spain people eat 12 grapes as the clock strikes midnight (one each time the clock chimes) on New Year's Eve. This peculiar ritual originated in the twentieth century when freak weather conditions resulted in an unseasonable bumper harvest of grapes. Not able to decide what to do about so many grapes at Christmas time, the King of Spain and the grape growers came up with the idea of the New Year ritual.

5) **Carrying a Suitcase** - In Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico, those with hopes of traveling in the New Year carry a suitcase around the house at midnight. Some even carry it around the block to ensure traveling at greater distances.

6) **Burning Crackers** - The people in China believe that there are evil spirits that roam the earth. So on New Year they burn crackers to scare the evil spirits. The doors and windows of every home in china can be seen sealed with

paper. This is to keep the evil demons out.

7) **Times Square Celebrations** - The first Ball Lowering celebration atop One Times Square was held on December 31, 1907 and is now a worldwide symbol of the turn of the New Year, seen via satellite by more than one billion people each year. The original New Year's Eve Ball weighed 700 pounds and was 5 feet in diameter. It was made of iron and wood and was decorated with 100 25-watt light bulbs.

8) **Foods** - It was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. It is still held in some regions that special New Year foods are the harbingers of luck. For that reason, the Dutch believe that eating donuts on New Year's Day will bring good fortune. The hog, and its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency. In some regions, rice is a lucky food that is eaten on New Year's Day. The ancient Persians gave New Year's gifts of eggs, which symbolized productivity.

9) **Black-eyed peas** - Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures.

10) **Wearing new slippers** - In China, many people wear in the new year a new pair of slippers that is bought before the new year, because it means to step on the people who gossip about you.

11) **Sealed doors & windows** - During new year, the doors and windows of every home in China can be seen sealed with paper. The Chinese think that this will succeed in keeping the evil demons out.

12) **Jewish New Year** - The Jewish New Year is called Rosh Hashanah. It is a holy time when Jews recall the things they have done wrong in the past, and then promise to do better in the future. Special services are held in the synagogues, children are given new clothes and New Year loaves are baked to remind people of harvest time.

13) **American resolutions** -

40 to 45% of American

adults make one or more New Year's resolutions each year. And these range from debt reduction to giving up bad habits to what not? But the ones that are the most common deal with weight loss to exercise to giving up smoking. ❖

Five Months on the Market and Nothing But Excuses.

If this has happened to you and you are still interested in selling your home, CALL *The Don Moore Team* and we will send you *our* FREE report on "How To Avoid The 10 Most Common Mistakes Made By Home Sellers".

Sellers Beware!

Send for your Free Report Today!
These Costly Mistakes Can Cause Your House To Sit On the Market!

Tip: Expanding Frosting

When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. ❖

You can find past issues at <http://tinyurl.com/33gt9>

We can evaluate your home providing tips on how to sell for TOP DOLLAR!
Call The Don Moore Team TODAY! Don Moore (281) 851-6310 ☎ Irene Chao (832) 630-1960