



NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT FOR LIFE

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Michael's Home News

News To Help You Save Time And Money

January 2010

An Exercise For Everyone

Here is a miracle exercise recommended by a doctor. You can do this standing or sitting down. Do it in front of a mirror, or better still, with someone. Here's how:

1. Raise the corners of your mouth an inch, take a deep breath and hold it for 10 seconds.
2. You are now smiling. If people are watching you, they'll probably start smiling, too.
3. Now release your breath in short exhalations. You are now laughing. Unless those with you are curmudgeons, they'll undoubtedly start laughing, too.



This simple muscular action of inhaling, raising the corners of the mouth, then exhaling in rhythmic, short bursts causes the diaphragm to bounce up and down, pats the liver on the back, and pleasantly vibrates the stomach. The heart, which rests above the diaphragm, begins to pump at a slightly faster rate, sending blood coursing throughout the body.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Shop And Save
- Help Your Babysitter Be Responsible
- Three Skills For Better Negotiation
- A Short History Of The Lobster
- Our Great Great Lakes
- Top Five New Year's Resolutions For Dogs
- Ask Your Surgeon Before The Incision
- January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- How To Make Progress, Not Excuses
- Critical Questions

ARE YOUR COLLEAGUES INTERESTED IN
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The effect is a general feeling of well-being. More important than this, however, is the effect on others who observe you going through this exercise. They feel better, too. This triggers happy emotions within you, and sets the stage for any number of pleasant personal and business relationships.

All this from one simple little exercise!

Let's start the New Year by resolving to perform this exercise regularly!

Michael Cowling

**DO YOU WANT TO
FIND OTHER LOCAL
BUSINESSES THAT
GIVE OUTSTANDING
CUSTOMER
SERVICE?**

Request a free copy of my service directory. All of the businesses listed in it have a proven track record for providing the outstanding customer service you deserve.

Shop And Save

After the holidays, many retailers slash their prices on gift wrapping paper, making January the best time of year to stock up. Consumer experts recommend choosing solid colors or patterns that can be used year-round.

Help Your Babysitter Be Responsible

If you hire an in-house babysitter, you'll want to help her (or him) do the best job possible. You want her to be able to protect herself and your children to her utmost. Here are a few tips to help her do so:

- Place a paper and pencil by the phone. If there's an emergency and she calls for help, she doesn't have to look for writing supplies if she needs to write something down. Have a separate piece of paper by the phone with your home address, home telephone number, and cell phone number(s) in case she needs to give that information over the phone to the police.
- Show her how to operate door and window locks, then let her try to do it on her own.
- Always leave at least one outside light on. This will allow her to see if anyone is approaching and also lets possible intruders know someone is home.
- Show her where fire extinguishers, emergency exits, and smoke alarms are located.
- Provide a first-aid kit. Show your babysitter where it's located and what its contents are.
- Remind your babysitter to never open the door for strangers. Also, not to mention that she's the babysitter to anyone who comes to the door.
- Remind your babysitter not to go outside to investigate anything suspicious. She should turn on all outside lights, call the police, and make sure all doors and windows are locked.
- Remind her not to tell a caller she's alone with your children. She should tell the person on the phone that she's visiting and you can't come to the phone. And to hang up if the person gets persistent.

January Quiz Question

**Who invented the
mercury thermometer?**

Everyone who faxes, emails or calls in the correct answer by the last day of this month will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Gift Certificate to Starbucks

December Quiz Answer

Question: What is the term for the metal or plastic sleeve found at the end of a shoelace?

Answer: Aglet.

Source: planetgreen.discovery.com

Congratulations to Mark Wallace.

Your name was selected at random from all of the correct quiz entries and you'll receive for a \$25 Gift Certificate to Starbucks

**Watch for your name
in a coming month!**

Three Skills For Better Negotiation

Negotiating is a make-or-break skill, whether you're a CEO in charge of a merger or a parent trying to sort out a sibling squabble. Follow these tips to negotiate agreements productively:

Keep an open mind. Brainstorm ideas. Listen to outlandish proposals. Entertain unusual possibilities. This will expand opportunities for agreement.

Treat people fairly. When people feel you're being fair with them, they're more likely to make real commitments. If they think you're trying to mislead them, they'll walk away in a huff. You won't get commitment unless the other party

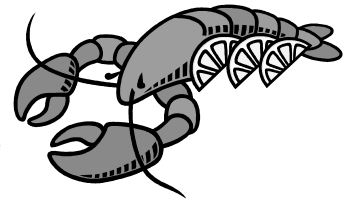
feels you're sincerely trying to do what's right.

Listen actively. Don't plan what you're going to say while the other side is talking. Pay attention to what they're saying so you know where they're coming from and what they really want. When your response makes it clear that you've really been listening, they'll be more willing to listen to your suggestions.

A Short History Of The Lobster

Mmmmm – lobster. That pricey crustacean that's coupled with expensive wines and for many of us means good eating and celebrating. But it hasn't always been so.

In fact, up until sometime in the 1800s, lobster was eaten only by the lowest of the lower classes – the poor and the institutionalized. Even in the puritanical and penal environment of colonial America, there were laws against feeding lobster to inmates more than once a week. It was considered cruel.



One reason that lobsters were not a highly prized food was because of the almost unbelievable abundance that could be found on the East Coast. There are tales of Plymouth pilgrims wading into the water and capturing more lobsters by hand than they could use. After great storms on the East Coast, so much lobster washed ashore that it was ground up and used as fertilizer.

The word "lobster" is thought to be a corruption of the Latin word for "locust" and Old English word for spider (*loppe*). The native mid-coasters' term for lobster actually meant "bugs," probably because lobsters are pretty much a form of giant sea insects. A lobster is

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a crustacean, and crustaceans are arthropods – part of the category *Arthropoda*, which includes insects, spiders, millipedes and centipedes. What these creatures have in common is a segmented exoskeleton with appendages that are articulated in pairs.

Our Great Great Lakes

Can you name our five Great Lakes?

The Great Lakes cover more than 94,000 square miles and contain six *quadrillion* gallons of fresh water, one-fifth of the world's fresh surface water. The lakes are so big, they have small tides, especially Lakes Superior and Erie. And when the wind pushes down on one part of a lake, the water surface rises in another part, creating

waves. It's rare, but the lakes can freeze over, although not solidly.

Hundreds of lighthouses are situated around the Great Lakes; Lake Michigan boasts the most, many of which are still operational. Even so, experts estimate that the lakes hold as many as 5,000 shipwrecks.

The five Great Lakes are Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie, and Ontario. Lake Erie was named for the Indian tribe, the Eries; Lake Huron for the Huron Indians. An Indian name for Lake Michigan was "michi gami," meaning "the great water." Lake Ontario got its name from the Iroquois; their word for "beautiful" was "ontara," and "ontario" meant "beautiful lake." Superior was named by the French and it means "Upper Lake," referring to its position above Lake Huron.



Top Five New Year's Resolutions For Dogs

5. I will not suddenly stand straight up when I'm lying under the coffee table.
4. I will no longer be beholden to the sound of the can opener.
3. I resolve to get a bite in on that guy who gives me a shot every year.
2. I will break into the pantry and decide for *myself* how much food is "too" much.

And the #1 New Year's resolution made by dogs...

1. I will not chase the stick until I see it leave the hand!

Ask Your Surgeon Before The Incision

Surgery is almost always a scary prospect to confront. Here's a list of questions you should ask before any surgical procedure. Write down the answers as you go through the list with your doctor:

- What surgery are you recommending?
- Why do I need it?
- Are there any alternatives to this surgery?
- What are the benefits of having this surgery?
- What are the risks?
- How much postoperative pain will there be?
- What might happen if I choose not to have this surgery?
- Where can I go for a second opinion?
- What is your experience with this procedure?
- How much will the surgery cost?
- Where will the surgery be performed?
- What kind of anesthesia will be used?
- Can I eat or drink anything the day before and/or the day of my surgery?
- How long can I expect to be in the hospital?
- Where should I go when I arrive at the hospital, and what should I bring with me?
- How long will it take to recover?
- What if I still have pain or still experience symptoms after surgery?
- When do I schedule my post-surgery follow-up appointment?

January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his assassination at age 39 in 1968. An eloquent and widely quoted speaker, King is perhaps most often remembered for the "I Have A Dream" speech he gave in 1963 in Washington, DC, which is credited with mobilizing supporters of desegregation and prompting the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

The U.S. Congress voted to observe a national holiday in King's honor beginning in 1986, on the third Monday of January, close to the time of his birthday.

WELCOME NEW CLIENTS

Here are some of the new clients who became members of our "Real Estate Family" this past month. I'd like to welcome you and wish you all the best!

Chris Doyle And Kelly Locke
(referred by Ray Cordoni and Deirdre Locke)

Winnie Fung

Andrei Igorov

We love giving recognition to our new friends and our wonderful existing clients who are kind enough to refer their friends and relatives to us.

Client Of The Month

Congratulations to our Client Of The Month, Connie Chung.

As always, the Client Of The Month receives a free dinner for two at Yokohama's Restaurant in Steveston and may bring, as our guests, a couple of their choice.

Call me to find out how you can become Client Of The Month!

How To Make Progress, Not Excuses

Is getting more exercise one of your 2010 goals? We all know we should exercise, but many of us have what seem like pretty good reasons to avoid it. Here are some of the most common, along with some common-sense responses:

"I don't have any spare time." The truth is that we make time for what's important to us. Schedule exercise into your day like any other appointment.

"Exercise is boring." The key is finding something you like. Look for team sports, group activities, or interesting surroundings to keep your mind as well as your body occupied.

"I'm too out of shape." Just don't overdo it at first. Check with your doctor for suggestions, and start with low-impact activities such as swimming or bike riding.

"I'm not fat." Good! But exercise is about more than losing weight. You want to maintain your health, and also control cholesterol and prevent heart disease – both benefits of regular exercise.

"I don't like going to gyms." If the gym scene isn't for you – or it's too expensive – look for an exercise routine that doesn't call for a lot of equipment, like running or lifting a few weights at home. A brisk walk helps, too.

Critical Questions

Successful relationships are built on a foundation of honest, thoughtful communication. Whether you're contemplating a business partnership or marriage, here are some questions to ask before entering into a long-term commitment with another person:

- What makes him/her angry? How does the person deal with anger?
- How does the person react in a crisis?
- How does he or she handle money?
- What does the other person expect from you? What happens if those expectations aren't met?
- What are the other person's goals? What are three things he/she would like to accomplish in the immediate future, and in the long term?

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MICHAEL'S HOME NEWS

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- How Sellers Price Their Homes
- How to Stop Wasting Money on Rent
- How to Sell Your House For the Most Money In the Shortest Possible Time
- The 10 Dumbest Mistakes Smart People Make When Buying or Selling a Home

Free Information

- Send me information about your free, no-obligation HomeFinder service.
- Send me the special computer report showing the features and sale prices of up to 15 of the most recent home sales near the following address: _____, City: _____ or in the _____ area.
- Please let me know the listing price and features of the home at the following address: _____.
- Please let me know the selling price of the home at the following address: _____.
- Please call me to arrange a free, no-obligation market valuation on my house.

Do you have a family member or friend who would enjoy a free subscription to MICHAEL'S HOME NEWS? Just provide me with their contact information, and I'll add them to my mailing list.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____ Postal: _____



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