

News from the *Caboose*

Don't Be Left Behind . . .



"Greening" Your Home



We've all heard about "green". Global Green, USA defines "green" as a practice that works with nature instead of against it. Environmental issues are in the headlines daily and at times it can seem overwhelming as to our part in the solutions. However, our quality of life and the future quality of life for our children and their children depend on the decisions we make today. We all have a part to play!

The easiest place for us to start is in our homes and Bissell-Hayes wants to continually inform you with current, up-to-date information as it relates to your investment in your home. We believe improving the energy efficiency and environmental friendliness of your home has a two-fold benefit. It improves your quality of life and when the time comes to sell you have an advantage in the market.

Where Do I Begin? Here Are Tips For "Greening" Your Home.

1. **LIGHT UP** - Replace three incandescent bulbs with fluorescent bulbs in your home and eliminate 300 lbs. of CO₂ - lasts longer, burns less.
2. **RECYCLE** - recycling half of the aluminum, glass, plastic and paper you use reduces 2,400 lbs. of CO₂.
3. **BUILD GREEN AND USE SOLAR POWER** - if remodeling or building a new home, use green materials and solar energy (use Federal tax credits and state buy down programs if available) to reduce 1,000 to 6,000 lbs. of CO₂.
4. **TURN IT DOWN, TURN IT UP** - turn your heater down and your air-conditioner up by three degrees and save 1,050 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
5. **WASH COOL** - do two loads of your laundry per week in cold or warm water instead of hot (and hang stuff out to dry when you can), save 500 lbs. of CO₂ per year.
6. **STORE SMARTLY, SAVE MONEY** - buy Energy Star refrigerators and other appliances and save money as well as 1,000 lbs. of CO₂ a year.
7. **BE WATER WISE** - Buy low-flow toilets that can save up to 22,000 gallons of water per year for a family of four.
8. **USE GREEN PAINTS** - Buy No-VOC (volatile organic compounds) or low VOC paints that can eliminate eye, nose and throat irritations, and more severe health threats.
9. **FAN IT** - installing a whole house or ceiling fan improves interior comfort by circulating cold and warm air and dramatically reduces the need for air-conditioning at 1/10 the cost.

Source: Global Green USA

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"GREENSCAPING"

Your Lawn and Garden



We as American homeowners spend hundreds of hours a year mowing, clipping, raking, and landscaping to keep our yards healthy and our property attractive. Our landscaping practices produce huge amounts of waste. So much in fact, that yard waste is second only to paper in the municipal solid waste stream. By following a few simple waste reduction practices, you can not only improve your lawn and garden, but also the environment .

GIVE AN INCH - SAVE A YARD

Grasscycling is a simple method for recycling your yard waste. Leave the grass clippings where they fall and allow them to decompose. The clippings return nutrients to your yard.

Mulching from chipped or shredded wood waste or dried leaves. It will prevent weed growth, retain water, regulate soil temperature, and add nutrients back to the soil.

Many people are now practicing xeriscaping, a technique that involves designing lawns and gardens to consider the natural landscapes of the region. Using native plants and landscape designs that optimize local conditions can reduce water use and reduce water use and soil erosion, lower maintenance costs, and preserve natural resources.

CREATE SOME SPACE AND COMPOST YOUR WASTE

Many lawn and landscaping products can be reused or recycled to prevent waste. Composting is one recycling method that turns organic yard waste into a natural soil additive rich in nutrients.

PRACTICE THE 4-R'S

Reduce - Reduce the amount of harmful pesticides you use. Make sure to use them safely and dispose of properly.

Reuse - Catch rain water and water your plants and garden with it.

Recycle - Especially remember to recycle the used oil and tires from your landscaping vehicles and equipment.

Rebuying - Rebuying means rethinking your purchasing habits. Look for products that still meet your needs, but are better for the environment.

Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Websites to Visit For Additional Information on "Greening"

www.thegreenguide.com (Sponsored by National Geographic)

As part of its ongoing mission to inspire people to care about the planet, National Geographic Society acquired the *Green Guide* in March 2007. Dubbed the "green living source for today's conscious consumer", *The Green Guide* is an invaluable resource for men and women, from young adults to grandparents, striving for a healthy and "greener" lifestyle. It is our collective vision that one day *The Green Guide* will be, for millions of consumers, the go-to source of information about practical everyday, environmentally responsible and health-minded product choices and actions. Our goal is to ensure that *The Green Guide* and www.thegreenguide.com serve as your most practical, reliable, and trustworthy content source for product choices and daily practices that are better for health and the environment.

www.conservation.org (*Conservation International*)

Conservation International believes that Earth's natural heritage must be maintained if future generations are to thrive spiritually, culturally and economically. Our mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.

www.usgbc.org (*U.S. Green Building Council*)

For resources and information on Green building and Green building design.

www.lowimpactliving.com (*Low Impact Living*)

Low Impact Living can help you find the right environmental information to meet your individual needs.

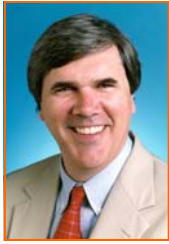
www.greenseal.com (*Green Seal*)

Green Seal is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to safeguarding the environment and transforming the marketplace by promoting the manufacture, purchase, and use of environmentally responsible products and services.

Charlotte Calendar of Events

October & November

Letter From Baxter Hayes President



Greening! Most people today have some concept of what global warming is and many have begun to understand that individually each one of us can have an effect on reducing pollution - our "carbon footprint" and all that goes with it.

When I began my real estate career in 1972 I had a desire to learn as much as I could about the wide world of real estate. No doubt, I have learned much! Blending my love of hunting and fishing with the day-to-day details of real estate management, I was allowed to search and research farm land to sell. The energy crisis of 1974 put a temporary end to that part of my career. The change was sudden and dramatic.

Do we now have another energy crisis pending? I hope not. The building and construction industry is well aware of the vast energy it takes to run all that it builds. Can we use less energy? Yes, and we will continue to improve energy efficiency through a nationally accepted benchmark called LEED, short for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Green building is a growing whole building approach that builders are implementing more and more today. Read about it. If you are buying or building a newly constructed home or renovating an existing one, ask your builder or Realtor. They should know. It's important!

Baxter Hayes

Charlotte Area Real Estate Statistics*

Area	Closed Units	Closed Volume	Average Closed Price
01- Mecklenburg County (N)	368	\$77,123,958	\$209,575
02- Mecklenburg County (E)	246	\$37,825,556	\$153,762
03- Mecklenburg County (SE)	161	\$29,957,856	\$186,073
04- Mecklenburg County (SSE)	220	\$71,900,149	\$326,818
05- Mecklenburg County (S)	347	\$138,409,554	\$398,874
06- Mecklenburg County (SSW)	120	\$29,247,143	\$243,726
07- Mecklenburg County (SW)	125	\$20,518,002	\$164,144
08- Mecklenburg County (W)	125	\$15,190,450	\$121,523
09- Mecklenburg County (NW)	166	\$33,487,370	\$201,731
10- Union County	363	\$115,967,176	\$319,468
11- Cabarrus County	291	\$59,203,643	\$203,448
12- Iredell County	153	\$26,438,923	\$172,803
13- Lake Norman	184	\$77,124,702	\$419,155
14- Lincoln County	75	\$10,498,207	\$139,976
15- Lake Wylie	65	\$27,533,897	\$423,598
16- Gaston County	271	\$40,477,214	\$149,362
17- York County	225	\$51,633,081	\$229,480
99- Uptown Charlotte	37	\$10,185,960	\$275,296

Data from the period beginning 7/6/07 & ending 8/7/07 and provided by the Carolina Multiple Listing Service, Inc.

Carolina Renaissance Festival

Date: October 6 - October 18
Time: Sat & Sun only, 10am - 5:30 pm
Scene: I-85 to exit 52, west 5 miles
Cost: \$17/adult, \$6/children age 5-12
www.carolinafest@royalfaires.com

Great Grapes! Wine, Arts & Food Festival

Date: October 6
Time: 11am - 7pm
Scene: Symphony Park at SouthPark
Price: \$20, \$10 designated driver admission
www.uncorkthefun.com

Bank of America 500 NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series

Date: October 13
Time: 8pm
Scene: Lowe's Motor Speedway
Price: \$19 - \$131
www.lowesmotorspeedway.com

Scarowinds' Halloween Haunt

Date: September 27 - October 31
Time: Varies
Scene: Carowinds Theme Park
Cost: Check www.carowinds.com

Sesame Street Live

Date: October 18 - October 21
Time: Varies
Scene: Cricket Arena
Cost: \$30 / \$23 / \$18 / \$14

Southern Christmas Show

Date: November 8 - November 18
Time: Varies
Scene: Charlotte Merchandise Mart
Price: \$8.00/Adult
www.SouthernChristmasShow.com

Charlotte International Car Show

Date: November 15 - November 18
Time: Varies
Scene: Charlotte Convention Center
Price: Check www.charlotteautoshow.com

60th Annual Carolina's Carrousel Thanksgiving Parade and Festival

Date: November 22, 2007
Time: 1:00 pm
Scene: Tryon Street
www.carrouselparade.org



From Your Real Estate Advocate...

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Fall Foliage Forecast 2007

The number one question is "When is the peak color?" No matter when you plan an autumn visit in October or early November, you can take a short drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway to find the best color. Elevation and weather are the biggest factors in the color show. Leaves begin their color change on the highest peaks and gradually work down to the lowest elevations. An early frost speeds up the show and warm weather prolongs it. Here is our best guess of the progression of the color show if you are headed toward the Asheville area.

October 4 -14: Highest elevations north of Asheville above 5,000 feet show the most color, especially in the Mount Mitchell and Craggy Garden area.

October 11-21: Color will increase in elevations great than 4,000 feet, including the Mount Pisgah and Cold Mountain area, southwest of Asheville on the Blue Ridge Parkway.

October 15-25: Many of the surrounding mountains around Asheville show plenty of color this week, especially in the 3,000-4,000 foot elevation range. Take the Parkway north or south from Asheville.

October 21-31: The city of Asheville (2,000 foot elevation) shows the brightest colors this week, along with areas around Hendersonville and Brevard.

October 26-November 7: The color show will conclude in the Chimney rock area (elevation of 1,300 feet).

Source: romanticasheville.com

Four Convenient Offices

SouthPark Office

4515 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
704-364-4515

Ballantyne Office

13860 Ballantyne Corp Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28277
704-248-2025

Eastover/Myers Park Office

122 Cherokee Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
704-887-0540

Relocation

4515 Sharon Road
Charlotte, NC 28211
866-548-RELO

Please Visit My New Website!

www.marysellscharlottehomes.com



www.bissellhayes.com



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