

**Ray Brigandi**  
Realtor®

7121 W Bell RD  
Suite 100  
Glendale, AZ 85308  
Phone: 602 430 7121  
Fax: 623 776 3482  
rayb72@hotmail.com

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

*Ray is the way Real Estate gets done*

VOLUME 3 • ISSUE 5

MAY 2005

## Use COLOR for Curb Appeal

*Does your home have curb appeal...that certain something that adds a "sparkle" to your home and beckons buyers to come inside?*

*Curb appeal creates an immediate impact on homebuyers. Whether it is pots of colorful flowers on the patio, a manicured and lush lawn, vibrant blooms climbing on an arbor... color creates an emotional connection, and a memorable first impression! Best of all, flowers and plants are an economical, easy way to create "curb appeal" in no time at all!*



### Some suggestions that will add curb appeal to your home:

- Plant redwood boxes with a variety of flowering plants and place on your porch, patio or walkways.
- Train a flowering vine to climb your porch railing or a trellis over the garage door.
- Buy ready-made "color spot" clay pots and scatter them around the yard for instant color.
- Plant bright trays of flowers along the front fence.
- Be sure your yard is maintained to keep lawns and trees looking healthy, and walkways clear of debris.

## Remodeling?? Choose Well!

Finding the right contractor is essential in achieving the best quality and value for your money. It will take a little research, but will be well worth it in the end.

Ask around. Check in with friends and neighbors whose remodels you like. Ask for the name of their contractor and ask questions about the process—as well as how he/she was to work with. Decide exactly what you want done and write it

down. Plans may be altered (by agreement) along the way, but you need to clearly define your expectations so things can't be misinterpreted.

Do you want to work with a General Contractor who will manage the entire job, or will you manage the subcontractors yourself? Either way, make sure to get at least 3 bids. Most importantly, meet the contractor at your home to get a feel for personality and work style. A good match is vital! Consider how much privacy you want to maintain while the work is being done, whether they will bring in a porta-potty or use your bathroom, how the site will be left at the end of each workday. Will the general contractor be on site—if not, how will you reach him? What if the project takes longer than expected? Value is gained in many ways—and not always with the cheapest bid!

Agree on a timeframe for the work to be done and get it in writing. Finally, ask for references and make sure the contractor is bonded and insured...and always, check their references as well as calling the local Better Business Bureau to see if they have any disputes or complaints on record.

Make sure to hold back the final payment until the job is complete *to your satisfaction*.

With patience, perseverance and a little luck, you'll be well on your way to a happy ending!



# D P R Realty

## Ray Brigandi - Realtor®

7121 W Bell RD  
Suite 100  
Glendale, AZ 85308



**Repair, Replace, Relax** with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with “peace of mind” when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home’s major systems and appliances. FNHW prides themselves on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners’ problems and needs. The homeowner only needs to make one call and pay one small service fee when a problem or a repair need arises.



*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.  
Fidelity National Home Warranty believes all information to be reliable, but assumes no legal responsibility for its accuracy.

## Celebrate May!

As April showers give way to flowers, May is the month we celebrate Spring and anticipate the arrival of summer! This is often the time to bring out the patio furniture, grease up the grill, and ready the hammock. It is also a time to let your garden draw you outdoors to enjoy its abundance of fragrance and color. It is a time for wildflower hikes, bicycle rides, picnics in the park and your first dip in the pool. There are lots of reasons to celebrate in May—here are a few:

- **May Day** began as a Spring festival long ago. People gathered together on the first day of May to celebrate the coming of Summer. One popular May Day tradition entails putting up a Maypole with ribbons attached, while dancers circle the pole, weaving together the colorful streamers. Another tradition is filling May baskets with flowers and other goodies to give to friends and loved ones.
- **Cinco De Mayo** is celebrated on the fifth day of May. It commemorates the victory of the Mexican Army over the French at the Battle of Puebla in 1862. This battle became a symbol of Mexican unity and patriotism. Cinco De Mayo is celebrated today with mariachi music, dancing and feasting.



### M - O - T - H - E - R

**M** is for the million things she gave me,  
**O** means only that she's growing old,  
**T** is for the tears she shed to save me,  
**H** is for her heart of purest gold;  
**E** is for her eyes, with love-light shining,  
**R** means right, and right she'll always be,  
Put them all together, they spell  
"MOTHER," A word that means the world  
to me.—Howard Johnson (c. 1915)

- **Mothers Day** is Sunday, May 8th. Honor your mom with breakfast in bed or a special day planned just for her! Did you know that Mothers Day is considered the busiest restaurant day of the year? Make your reservations early!
- **Memorial Day** is a day to fly the American Flag to remember and honor those who have died serving our country. It is a day of family gatherings—and also marks the beginning of summer, picnic and grilling season.

*What picnic would be complete without a good old-fashioned potato salad?*

### PICNIC POTATO SALAD

- 5 pounds red potatoes
  - 1 cup mayonnaise
  - 1/2 cup Miracle Whip salad dressing
  - 1/4 cup milk
  - 2 Tbsp. yellow mustard
  - Salt & pepper to taste
  - 1 bunch green onions, sliced
  - 1 bunch radishes, cleaned and sliced
  - 6 hard boiled eggs, sliced
- Boil potatoes until tender and peel when cool enough to handle. Blend mayonnaise, Miracle Whip, milk and mustard in a large bowl until smooth. The dressing will be fairly thin. Toss all together. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serves 10.