

# FROM KENSINGTON TO HOLLYWOOD

by Maggie McCann

Kensington has had its share of notable residents, from presidents to mayors to congressmen to baseball players, but perhaps the most colorful neighbor was Victor Buono, a name many baby boomers are familiar with.

Victor Charles Buono was born in San Diego in 1938 and grew up at 4317 Alder Drive. An actor, comic, and a recording artist, he was known for playing the villain King Tut on the television series *Batman* (1966–1968) and musician Edwin Flagg in the movie *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?*, a major gothic horror movie that was nominated for five Academy Awards. Buono’s performance in the movie earned him a nomination for an Academy Award and a Golden Globe Award.

Victor was the son of Myrtle Belle Keller and Victor Francis Buono, a construction engineer and graduate of San Diego High School. His maternal grandmother, Myrtle Glied, was a

vaudeville performer on the Orpheum Circuit. When he was a boy, she taught him songs and recitations and encouraged him to perform for visitors.

Victor was like many Kensington kids at the time, attending Benjamin Franklin Elementary, and, being from a devoutly Catholic family, moved on to Saint Augustine High School in North Park. He began acting as a member of the San Diego Junior Theater in 1954.

He started appearing on local radio and television stations, and at age 18 joined the Globe Theater Players in San Diego. Buono was an avid reader and Shakespearean at heart, and while he ultimately became known for campy villainous roles, he began his acting career in many Globe productions, including being cast as Volpone in a *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and Falstaff in *Henry IV*. He received accolades for his various Shakespearean roles and in modern plays such as *The Man Who Came to Dinner* and *Witness for the Prosecution*.

In the summer of 1959, a talent

scout from Warner Bros. saw Buono play Falstaff at the Globe and took him to Hollywood for a screen test. Victor made his first network TV appearance playing the bearded poet Bongo Benny in an episode of *77 Sunset Strip*. Over the next few years, he was type cast, in part due to his size, as menacing heavies in series on TV, including a recurring stint on *The Wild Wild West* as the dastardly *Count Carlos Manzeppi*. A tall child, Victor eventually topped out at 6 foot 4 inches tall and was rumored to weigh 400 lbs. at his death.

Victor Buono died in 1982 in Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, at the age of 43 from a massive heart attack. His dream of acting on Broadway was never realized. His last film appearance was in 1980 as an evil shipping tycoon in *“Sam Marlowe, Private Eye.”* Victor is buried alongside his mother in Greenwood Memorial Park in San Diego.

Are there any former classmates of Victor still left in Kensington? We’d like to hear from you! ■

**LEFT:** In the photo, Victor Buono is pictured at the far right, towering above his classmates in 1949 at Franklin Elementary.



## KENSINGTON-TALMADGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INVITES YOU TO A MEETING TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF AN HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

Kensington-Talmadge Community Association (KTCA) welcomes community members to an informational meeting to discuss establishing Historic Districts in Kensington and Talmadge on Thursday, September 30, 2021, 7:00 PM at the Kensington Community Church—Lander Hall.

The interest in discovering more about Historic Districts and their designation began with a KTCA (Zoom) meeting held in March 2021, with Architectural Historian, Dr. Diane Kane, who explained the background of Historic Districts and the process of establishing them. The video of the Zoom meeting is available on the KTCA website (<https://kental.org>). A meeting of community “stakeholders”—those representing Kensington and Talmadge organizations, was held in July and it was agreed we would proceed with exploring the possibilities of historic designations in our community. Kensington resident Priscilla Berge, who has done extensive research in this area, presented the work that has been done to this point. Dr. Kane was enthusiastic and encouraging to our efforts and the group felt it was worthwhile to move ahead and hold a community-wide meeting.

Our meeting on September 30, will be a community forum (no meal or refreshments) and will include presentations by Dr. Kane and Priscilla Berge, who will outline the “next best steps” to preserve our communities with their original charm and cultural significance. Please join us and (if needed) wear a mask—depending on San Diego County guidelines related to COVID.

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# TRISTANI

## REAL ESTATE



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**And More!**



# WINNIE'S PICKS!

by Winnie Hanford  
of Kensington Video



## BLUE RUIN (2013)

Directed  
by Jeremy  
Saulnier

This is a vengeance film that begins with a young man, Dwight, living out of his car. The neighborhood police assist him in his lifestyle which hints that he has been through a trauma and is causing no harm to anyone. Some news changes everything for him when he discovers that the killer of his parents is being released from prison. His quest for revenge leads him to committing a bloody murder which soon sets off an all-out war between the families. The problem is that Dwight's sister,



Sam, has moved on with her own family, but now she has become a target. The story is fast-moving and tense from beginning to end with a climax that will have you on the edge of your seat.

## STATE OF PLAY (2003)

Directed by  
David Yates

— stars  
John Simm,  
David  
Morrissey,  
and Kelly  
MacDonald

This 6-part series involves the murder of a street teen and the research aide for a prominent politician. The investigation by a journalist discovers the connection of these murders



and a deeper plot that reveals a government conspiracy. As the story unfolds, the corruption of the power people and compromised politicians is bared. This series was re-booted as an American film in 2009. The stars of the U.S. film are Russell Crowe, Rachel McAdams, and Ben Affleck.

## LEAVE NO TRACE (2018)

Directed by Debra Granik

A father and daughter live off of the grid in an Oregon forest. The father, Will, suffers from PTSD, and his 13-year old daughter, Tom, is being raised by her dad. Authorities discover them and seek to help Will and provide a stable environment for the daughter, but this is threatening to Will. As the story progresses, we see the pain that the veteran is suffering, but we also see the denial of a complete life and social environment for Tom. The ending is clever and very realistic. It rallies empathy for our vets, as well as their children.



## A CALL TO SPY (2019)

Directed by Lydia Dean Pilcher

Sarah Megan Thomas wrote, produced, and starred in this true story of Britain's recruitment of women as foreign spies during WWII. France has been occupied by the Nazis, and England is desperate for military information. The concept of training and placing female spies in Occupied France is new and dangerous because of the short timeline of training and the consequences of being captured. This is a heroic story that honors the amazing women that sacrificed so much for their country and the world.



king sees his stunning daughter as the only fitting replacement throughout the kingdom. He is more concerned about providing an heir to his throne than the morality of an incestuous marriage. The princess is advised by her godmother to ask her father for nuptial gifts that would be virtually impossible to obtain. The gifts are delivered with one of them being a donkey skin of a donkey that excretes jewels. This provides the perfect escape for the princess as she dons the skin and escapes to another kingdom. As fate unfolds, a prince discovers the beautiful princess in hiding, falls in love, but will a marriage be possible? It's a mesmerizing musical fantasy with brilliant scenery, direction, and the always lovely Catherine Deneuve.



## DONKEY SKIN (1975)

Directed by Jacques Demy –  
Inspired by Charles Perrault's  
fairytale Donkeyskin

Catherine Deneuve stars as the beautiful daughter of a king who is seeking to find a new wife to replace his dying spouse. The queen is renowned for her beauty, and the

Winnie and Rich just  
celebrated 75 years of  
marriage.



If you need to purchase a film or make a copy of an event or wedding, please call my son, Guy, at 619-269-6998 or email him at [kensingtonvideo.com](mailto:kensingtonvideo.com).

## Which Will Be Your Home in a Fire?



KENSINGTON FIRE SAFE AND KEN TAL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

— Present —

## Increase Your Home's Fire Survival Odds!

Professional home hardening expert, Danny Glessner, will share the latest on strengthening our homes' fire resistance! Danny, a former firefighter and fire captain, combines scientific research with extensive frontline experience.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH 7 - 8 PM  
LANDER HALL | KENSINGTON COMMUNITY CHURCH  
4774 MARLBOROUGH DR.

Please RSVP so we have enough chairs, at: [kensingtonfiresafe.org](http://kensingtonfiresafe.org) or at QR code below  
Questions? [info@kensingtonfiresafe.org](mailto:info@kensingtonfiresafe.org)



RSVP HERE:



Note: The Church requires all attendees to sign a COVID waiver and wear face covering, regardless of vaccination status.  
Disposable masks will be available for your use. You and your home will be glad you came!

## EDITOR'S CORRECTION

In the article on the Hanfords in the last issue, the author stated that the Kensington Gift Store was opened in 1984. The correct year was 1964. The author regrets the error.

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Edward Jones - It's Time for Investing to Feel Individual.

The 2021 U.S. Full-service Investor Satisfaction Study is based on responses from 4,392 investors who make some or all investment decisions with a financial advisor. The study was fielded from December 2020 through February 2021. For more information, visit [jdpower.com/awards](https://www.jdpower.com/awards).

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for

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Former Teacher and Non-Profit Executive.

### MEET SHANA

- Longtime Kensington community member
- Parent of a Franklin Elementary STEAM Magnet School student
- President, Friends of Franklin Elementary School Foundation
- Member, Franklin Elementary School Site Council

### SHANA'S PLAN

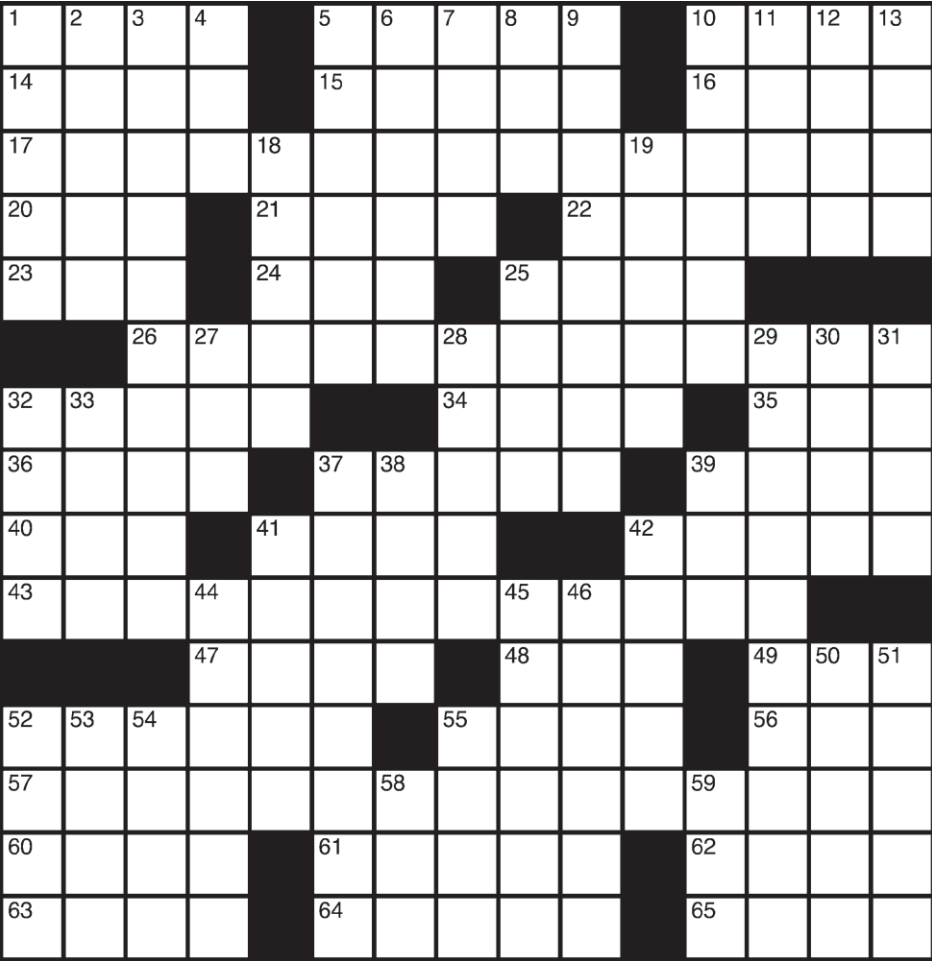
- ✓ Targeted investments to close the opportunity and achievement gap
- ✓ Build strong school leadership by cultivating and retaining effective principals and invest in our teachers
- ✓ Strengthen TK-12 STEAM learning and implement system-wide science-based reading instruction

Paid for by Shana Hazan for School Board 2022. ID #1436487.

Learn more about Shana at [ShanaforSchoolBoard.com](https://ShanaforSchoolBoard.com)



CROSSWORD  
PUZZLE



just for fun

ACROSS

1 Hang out in alleys

5 Sporty sunroofs

10 Job jar item

14 Cuatro y cuatro

15 Sprightly movement

16 Lamb pen name

17 Source of damaging rumors

20 Vietnam holiday

21 “What the Constitution Means to Me” award

22 Like Boo Boo and Baloo

23 Lead source

24 Novelist Deighton

25 Wile E. Coyote’s supplier

26 Buzz among local gossips

32 Takes short cuts?

34 Part of S&L

35 FDR 34-Across org.

36 One of 1,225 in the first published edition of “War and Peace”

37 They have their pride

39 Put a halt to

40 Is for a few

41 Carson forerunner

42 Hostess snack cakes

43 Nickname of two Six Flags roller coasters

47 Tavern orders

48 Apollo vehicle, briefly

49 Many miles

52 Entertained

55 Vegas rival

56 Hot Dijon season

57 Question asked with a raised voice, as demonstrated in three long puzzle answers

60 Verdi opera

61 Pants style

62 Retin-A target

63 Altar words

64 Stall for Time?

65 Clarinet need

18 Opinion surveys

19 Image creators, for short

25 Loads

27 Monkey relative

28 Biota growth

29 Undecided

30 Owl’s call

31 Catches some z’s

32 Places for hot waxes

33 One pulling in pushers

37 Outgoing officeholder

38 Perfect Portions pet food brand

39 Abel, to Adam

41 Throwback diet

42 Handmade stadium sign

44 Gut courses

45 Becomes less overcast

46 Playwright Ibsen

50 Even things

51 Said 63-Across a second time

52 Antioxidant-rich berry

53 Downton Abbey’s Daisy, for one

54 Go back, on a PC

55 Default result

58 “Bali \_\_”

59 AirPods spot

DOWN

1 Greet formally, as at the start of a sumo match

2 Earth tone

3 Mutant big cat

4 \_\_ Gatos, California

5 Late game show host with seven Emmys

6 “Gran \_\_”: 2008 Eastwood film

7 \_\_ in a blue moon

8 Kissing on the kiss cam, for short

9 Even

10 Her Majesty’s service?

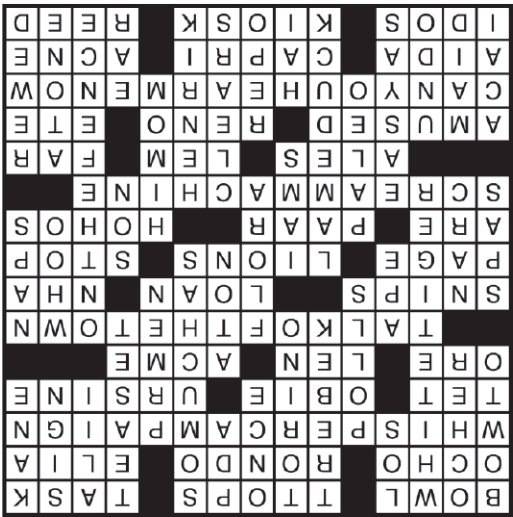
11 Others, in old Rome

12 Put one’s name on the line?

13 Immortal “Citizen”

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PUZZLE  
answers



5	4	1	3	2	6	7	9	8
9	3	7	8	1	5	2	6	4
2	2	8	6	9	7	4	1	3
7	2	3	9	6	4	8	5	1
1	6	8	2	5	9	4	4	7
4	5	9	7	3	1	6	8	2
8	1	2	5	9	7	3	4	6
3	9	4	1	6	2	8	2	5
6	7	5	4	8	3	9	2	1

PAR SCORE 265-275  
BEST SCORE 332

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. SOLUTION TOMORROW

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

03-21

SCRABBLE G R A M S

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I<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

I<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

R<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

RACK 1

E<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>

F<sub>4</sub>

H<sub>4</sub>

P<sub>3</sub>

RACK 2

A<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

R<sub>1</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

C<sub>3</sub>

C<sub>3</sub>

RACK 3

E<sub>1</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>

E<sub>1</sub>

T<sub>1</sub>

T<sub>1</sub>

N<sub>1</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

RACK 4

O<sub>1</sub>

O<sub>1</sub>

U<sub>1</sub>

M<sub>3</sub>

H<sub>4</sub>

D<sub>2</sub>

L<sub>1</sub>

RACK 5

Double Word Score

1st Letter Triple

PAR SCORE 265-275  
BEST SCORE 332

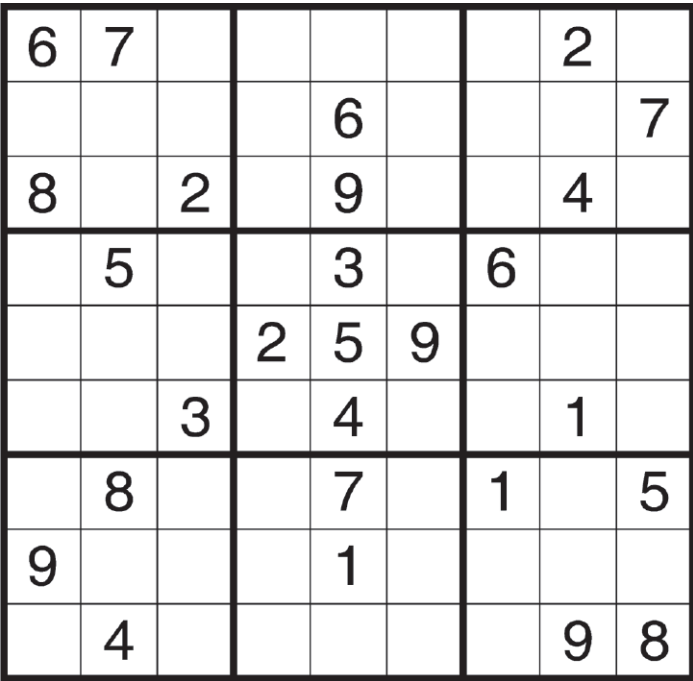
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For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

03-21

Sudoku

created by Crosswords Ltd.



Word Search - Autumn



HARVEST  
CHILLY  
THANKFUL  
WHEAT  
MAZE  
RED  
COLORS  
MAPLE TREE  
GEESE  
SWEATER  
ORCHARD  
PUMPKIN  
PEAR  
BROWN  
HAY  
LEAVES  
RAKE  
OCTOBER  
APPLE  
ORANGE

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TLATO

PHEDT

RULYXU

GRANJO

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME  
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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# ARE WE IN A HOUSING CRISIS?

Depends on who you ask! If you look to the city and state politicians they will give you a resounding YES as they come up with legislation to “fix it”. The current debacle by our San Diego City Council in their change to the zoning code last fall is their way of trying to create more housing. Were you aware of these changes when they occurred last year? I certainly was not. That is another whole topic that has most recently been in the forefront. That along with Sen. Toni Atkins SB9 and Scott Weiner’s SB10 have raised the ire of citizens across the state.

Let’s talk about the “housing crisis.” In my opinion, as a Broker for the last 42 years, crisis is not the right term. Do we need additional housing? Yes, no question. What is in question is where will that housing be and how much will it cost? One does not have to be a Rhodes Scholar to figure out that San Diego and all of Southern California are desirable places to live primarily because of weather. Yes we do have our issues... earthquakes, fires, drought but that does not seem to be stopping people from moving here or WANTING to move here or even buying in an escalated market. Yes, some are leaving for less expensive regions. I support their right to do

that. Consequently, prices will be higher here than many other parts of the country. They were when I moved here 43 years ago! I believe they always will be higher than most. There are those who feel that our prices should be adjusted to allow everyone to have equal access to all neighborhoods. Well if that is the case then I should be able to buy a 3000 square foot home in La Jolla for \$500,000

be here and would have done anything in my power to make it happen. I recently sat down with our council representative for a short meeting with a few neighbors and was asked point blank...”who do you think should be ALLOWED to live in your neighborhood?” Not sure why he phrased it that way which I found offensive, but my answer

through several ups and downs in the market over the last four decades. Building an ADU and a junior ADU (JADU) seems to be acceptable to most, myself included and that , in it’s own way, adds to the housing inventory. But adding four or more units to an existing single family zoned lot is way too much. Will that solve the “housing crisis”? No it won’t. Rents will stay high and sales prices will go higher with multiple units for sale. The ones affected are those who bought single family homes in single family zoned neighborhoods expecting the benefits that go along with it. We do not need Huffman 2.0.

Solution? Build more housing ON the transit corridors with a variety of

price points to open up potential for some. It’s not going to help all. Instead of eliminating fees for builders who build in our neighborhoods, eliminate or reduce those fees as an incentive to building where it will make the most sense.

The real way to solve the “housing crisis” is for us to have a few blizzards and plain old snowstorms in January or February. Now that would make a difference! Who’s in charge of that???

Mike Tristani

HOUSING  
CRISIS

instead of \$5,000,000. Not gonna happen... Pricing is high all over the country right now but even in this market there are many less expensive areas to live in. Go where you can afford to live! I’m sure many of you reading this were in the same situation I was in when I got to San Diego. I worked hard, saved some money, bought my first house and subsequently exchanged my equity into other homes as the market grew. Not hard to understand. But I didn’t whine about prices. I wanted to

to him was “whoever can afford to live here should be able to live here”. He and his Kensington liaison have since alluded to the fact that everyone who works in Kensington should be able to live in Kensington too. Doesn’t usually work that way. Would that hold true for La Jolla, Del Mar or Rancho Santa Fe? I continue to be astonished by our city and state leaders.

Yes the market is at an all time high and yes no one knows when and if that will subside. I’ve been

## Edward Jones

by David Tam,  
Edward Jones in Kensington

Many people have decided that bitcoin is the next big thing – and they are backing up their enthusiasm with dollars. Should you, too, consider putting money into bitcoin or other cryptocurrencies?

First of all, keep in mind an essential piece of financial advice: *Don’t invest in something you don’t understand.* And bitcoin is not easily understandable. There’s no physical bitcoin, nor is it backed by a bank or government. It’s a digital currency, used for transactions on a decentralized network of computers. The market’s demand for bitcoin largely determines its price, though other factors are also involved.

And this price can vary widely. Since bitcoin was introduced in 2009, it has gone through periods of enormous gains and precipitous declines. Its short history has reminded market watchers of the bursting of the “dot.com” bubble in 2000 and the housing market bubble in 2007. These results have raised the following question about purchasing bitcoin: Is it investing or speculating?

There’s a big difference between the two. Speculators engage in risky transactions with the hope of profiting from short-term price



## BITCOIN: INVESTING OR SPECULATING?

that asset, your financial strategy could be jeopardized. Long-term investors reduce this risk by owning a variety of investments. While diversification can’t guarantee profits or protect against all losses, it can help reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio.

And here’s one more difference between investors and speculators: track record. Investors put their money into companies that provide tangible goods and services, and these companies have historically grown with the overall economy. Stocks and bonds are established investment vehicles with well-defined and regulated markets. Consequently, investors can assume a certain degree of predictability, though, of course, stock prices will always fluctuate in the short term and there are no guarantees against loss of principal. Cryptocurrencies, on the other hand, are relatively new, largely unpredictable and will likely face increased regulation in the future, with the ultimate risk being an outright ban by some governments.

You work hard for your money—so think carefully about how you can best put it to use to help you reach your lifetime goals. ■

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

### THEY FOLLOW A LONG-TERM STRATEGY

Real investors follow a long-term strategy based on their goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Generally speaking, long-term investors don’t do a lot of buying and selling, saving on fees and potential taxes. But this “buy and hold” approach doesn’t mean investors put their portfolios on

autopilot. Instead, they review their portfolios at least once a year to make sure their investment mix is still appropriate for their needs.

### THEY FOCUS ON QUALITY

Long-term investors stay away from the flashier—and riskier—financial instruments. Instead, these investors seek *quality*. When they’re considering stocks, for example, they look for companies with solid fundamentals, including strong management teams, competitive products and services and business

plans that bode well for the future. When they buy bonds, they seek those with high credit ratings issued by the independent rating agencies. Focusing on quality doesn’t yield quick results, but it can instill confidence in one’s investment choices.

### THEY DIVERSIFY THEIR HOLDINGS

If a downturn in the financial markets affects one type of asset particularly hard, and your portfolio contains a high concentration of

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GOLD  
STANDARD





# NOVEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
				VETERAN'S DAY		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
				THANKSGIVING		
28	29	30				



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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						SWEETEST DAY
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
HALLOWEEN 31						



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# 5 GRILLING SAFETY TIPS FOR THE MASTER (OR AMATEUR) BBQ'ER

Barbecuing is a great way to entertain friends and family, but grilling season also increases the chances of a fire incident. The National Fire Protection Association reports outdoor grilling causes an average of 10,200 home fires each year—and with over 75% of U.S. households owning a grill or smoker, according to the Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association, it's important to take the right precautions.

Before you fire up the barbecue for your next cookout, check out these five grilling safety tips to help protect you and your home.

### 1. GRILL OUTSIDE AND AWAY FROM STRUCTURES

Position the grill well away from anything that can catch fire - like siding, deck railings and overhanging branches. Always make sure it's set up on an even surface in an open, well-ventilated area. And be mindful of the grill's vicinity to dry vegetation, tablecloths and outdoor décor.

### 2. KEEP IT CLEAN

Before and after each use, inspect all parts of the grill for any needed maintenance or leaks if you are using a propane grill. Remove all grease or fat buildups from the grills and the trays below the grill. And if you have a charcoal grill, make sure the charcoal has cooled down completely before you get rid of it—remember, charcoal and ashes can stay hot for much longer than they appear.

### 3. USE THE RIGHT TOOLS

Use long-handled grilling tools to provide plenty of clearance from heat and flames when flipping



burgers. Use flame-retardant oven mitts when readjusting those hot barbecue vents and wear a flame-resistant apron, which is made of materials that resist burning and melting and can help prevent a burn injury. Also, make sure any loose articles of clothing like your shirt tails, sleeves or apron strings don't dangle over the grill.

### 4. TAKE CARE AND CREATE A SAFE ZONE

Take care and create a safe zone. Just like you would never leave the kitchen while using the stove or oven, you should never leave a lit grill unattended. For an extra level

of protection, keep children and pets away from the area by declaring a three-foot "safe zone" around the grill to prevent any accidents. Easily designate the zone with cones or by placing bright-colored duct tape on the ground. This applies to bonfires, too.

### 5. BE READY TO PUT OUT A FIRE

Even if you're following safe grilling or cooking practices inside or outside, you should always be prepared with a fire extinguishing device nearby, like the portable First Alert EZ Fire Spray. It's easy to use—just point and spray—and features a familiar lightweight spray-can

design. Plus, it discharges four times longer than traditional extinguishers and the firefighting agent is non-toxic, so it won't damage the grill or cooktop's surface or the surrounding area and is easy to clean up after use.

By following these tips, you can help make any backyard cookout safe and memorable. Remember, if a fire starts and you cannot safely and quickly extinguish it or a propane tank is involved in the fire, call 911 immediately and evacuate the area. To learn more about fire safety, visit [FirstAlert.com](https://www.firstalert.com). ■

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## — AMERICA'S — TEST KITCHEN



## BLUEBERRY COBBLER

INGREDIENTS - SERVES 8

### FOR THE FILLING:

- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest plus 1 tablespoon juice, divided
- Pinch salt
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 6 cups blueberries

### FOR THE BISCUIT TOPPING:

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 3/4 cup buttermilk
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

### FOR THE FILLING:

1. Adjust oven rack to the middle position and heat oven to 375 degrees. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. In a large bowl, stir together cornstarch, lemon zest, pinch of salt and 3/4 cup sugar. Add blueberries and lemon juice and gently toss to coat. Transfer mixture to an 8 inch square baking dish. Place baking dish on parchment-lined baking sheet. Place baking sheet in oven. Bake until the filling is hot and starting to bubble around the edges, about 25 minutes.

### FOR THE BISCUIT TOPPING:

1. While the filling bakes, in a second large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1 tablespoon sugar. In a liquid measuring cup, use a fork to stir buttermilk and melted butter until butter forms small clumps.

### TO FINISH THE COBBLER:

1. When the filling is ready, remove the baking sheet from the oven and place it on a cooling rack. Increase oven temperature to 475 degrees and let the filling cool for 10 minutes.
2. Add buttermilk mixture to bowl with flour mixture. Stir until just combined.
3. Spray inside of a 1/4-cup dry measuring cup with vegetable oil spray. Use greased measuring cup to scoop batter: Drop scoops of dough evenly onto warm berry filling to make 9 biscuits. Return baking dish (still on baking sheet) to the oven. Bake until biscuits are golden brown, and a toothpick inserted in the center of a biscuit comes out clean, 12 to 14 minutes.
4. Place baking sheet on a cooling rack. Let the cobbler cool for at least 30 minutes before serving.



by Caylin Harris

Just like technology and fashion, cleaning best practices and household cleaning products change over time—thank goodness, right? Fortunately, we’re not all still hand-washing every piece of laundry. That’s not to say some tried-and-true originals aren’t still gems but naturally, over time, our cleaning techniques and solutions have gotten safer and more efficient. So, once we know better, we can do better. Here are some antiquated cleaning rules you should feel free to break.

THEN: DON'T USE SOAP ON CAST IRON

Now: Actually, a couple of drops of dish soap is OK! It was thought that soap would remove the seasoning on the surface, but that’s likely not true if your pan is properly seasoned.

However, while you can use soap, it’s often easier to scrub with a coarse salt to remove any gunk and grime from your cast-iron pan. Then, give the pan a quick rinse and dry it thoroughly.

THEN: ALWAYS PRE-RINSE DISHES BEFORE LOADING THE DISHWASHER

Now: Today’s dishwashers and detergents have enough power to take care of stuck-on food messes. If you have a modern machine, you can simply scrap off any excess



OLD-SCHOOL CLEANING RULES THAT ARE TOTALLY FINE TO BREAK

food before loading the machine. It’s a win-win because not pre-rinsing helps save water too.

That said, it’s never a bad idea to run your dishwasher regularly so dirty dishes aren’t sitting, and if you find a plate with fossilized food on it somewhere, it might not hurt to soak it instead of popping it right into the dishwasher.

THEN: YOU SHOULD SANITIZE YOUR SPONGE TO KILL GERMS

Now: It’s better to replace a sponge once a week or switch to a reusable dish brush. The old school of thought was

that you could kill the germs in a sponge by heating it in the microwave, but research indicates that this isn’t effective against some types of dangerous bacteria.

Hot take: Skip the sponge completely and just go for the less-wasteful reusable dish brush or pan scraper. You’ll be happy you did, plus, no weird sponge smell.

THEN: TO BRIGHTEN WHITE SHEETS AND TOWELS, BLEACH IS BEST

Now: There are other natural laundry solutions that work well, too. If you’re looking for a chlorine

bleach-free way to brighten and remove stains, there are chemical-free ways to refresh laundry (including baking soda). Also, oxygen-based laundry whitening products contain zero chlorine bleach and can be used to whiten and brighten clothing and linens.

THEN: USE A DUSTING SPRAY

Now: Ick, no more stinky sprays to help nab dust and grime. Not only is it unnecessary, but furniture polishes can build up on pieces over time and leave a sticky residue that’s a pain to clean and can actually collect

dust. Instead, microfiber cloths work well to trap dirt and germs.

THEN: MOPPING GETS FLOORS CLEANER

Now: Make way for new technology! Traditional mops add a lot of extra water and cleaner to your floors, which can cause warping and damage on some types of flooring. Instead, try a modern cleaning mop with a removable pad that can be laundered separately. Also, it’s smart to have a couple of cleaning pads on hand so you can replace them as you clean rooms.

THEN: YOU HAVE TO CLEAN BATHROOMS WITH REALLY HARSH CLEANERS

Now: Not so fast! Strong-smelling doesn’t necessarily mean more germ-fighting power. There are plenty of safe and effective cleaners that are low-odor. Also, products like Force of Nature and HoMedics Ozone Clean water spray use ozone cleaning technology to kill germs. Whatever method you choose, make sure you follow the instructions and let the cleaner sit long enough to do its germ-busting. ■

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FORCE OF NATURE

THE NEW RULES OF PANTRY ORGANIZATION

by Laura Fenton, realsimple.com

We asked the experts how to organize a pantry for everyday cooking and extended use. They walked us through the pantry organization process step-by-step. Start by taking stock of what you have stashed, then follow these tips to sort, decant and stack your way to a tidier pantry. Finding snacks, dinner supplies and baking essentials just got easier.

DO A BIG CLEAN-OUT

We don’t usually think of “decluttering” food, but professional organizer Shira Gill says this is a key step in tidying the pantry, especially when you want to make sure it’s stocked with essentials. “Take everything out, and get real about what you’re going to cook with,” she advises. Box up any unopened nonperishables and donate them to your local food pantry. Challenge yourself to spend a week incorporating all the little bits left over into soups, stews, pasta dishes and trail mixes.

(MOSTLY) DISREGARD EXPIRATION DATES

According to the USDA, with the exception of infant formula, expiration dates can largely be ignored. Canned and jarred foods, dried beans and many sweeteners can last for years. (But discard cans with dents, rust or swelling.) For things that go rancid more quickly,

like oils and whole-grain flours, use your nose as a guide, says chef Vivian Howard, author of This Will Make It Taste Good: “As long as it looks good and smells good, it should be fine.”

POUR INTO CLEAR CONTAINERS

The experts we spoke to agree that decanting boxes and bags of food into see-through vessels is a must for a well-organized pantry. It saves space, of course -- particularly when a package contains almost as much air as food. But you can also quickly see how much you have, making meal planning and grocery-list writing easier. As a bonus, it reduces the visual clutter in your pantry. And if you go with airtight containers, decanting will keep your staples fresh longer.

STOCKPILE ONLY WHAT YOU LOVE

When you think of filling a pantry for a rainy day (or future shelter-in-place order), you might think of canned vegetables and tuna. But if your family doesn’t enjoy those foods, there’s no sense in stocking up on them, Yonan says: “You should have things you like. Don’t put something in your pantry that won’t inspire you to cook.”

SHOP FOR THE SPACE YOU HAVE

When trying to figure out how many staples to keep on hand,

it’s easy to get worked up about preparedness these days. Some people say you need a week’s supply; others say a year’s. The short answer: Stock what your storage space allows. To utilize every inch of space, invest in a slide-out drawer that makes even the back corners of the pantry more accessible.

USE A MATCHING COLLECTION

This may feel fussy, but Gill says having uniform vessels “is one of those little things that make a big difference.” Your pantry will immediately appear more organized, and you won’t have to play find-the-matching-lid. It doesn’t have to be expensive. Joe Yonan, author of “Cool Beans,” uses mason jars and masking tape to manage his dry goods. If there are cooking instructions you want

to save, cut off the label and tape it to the container.

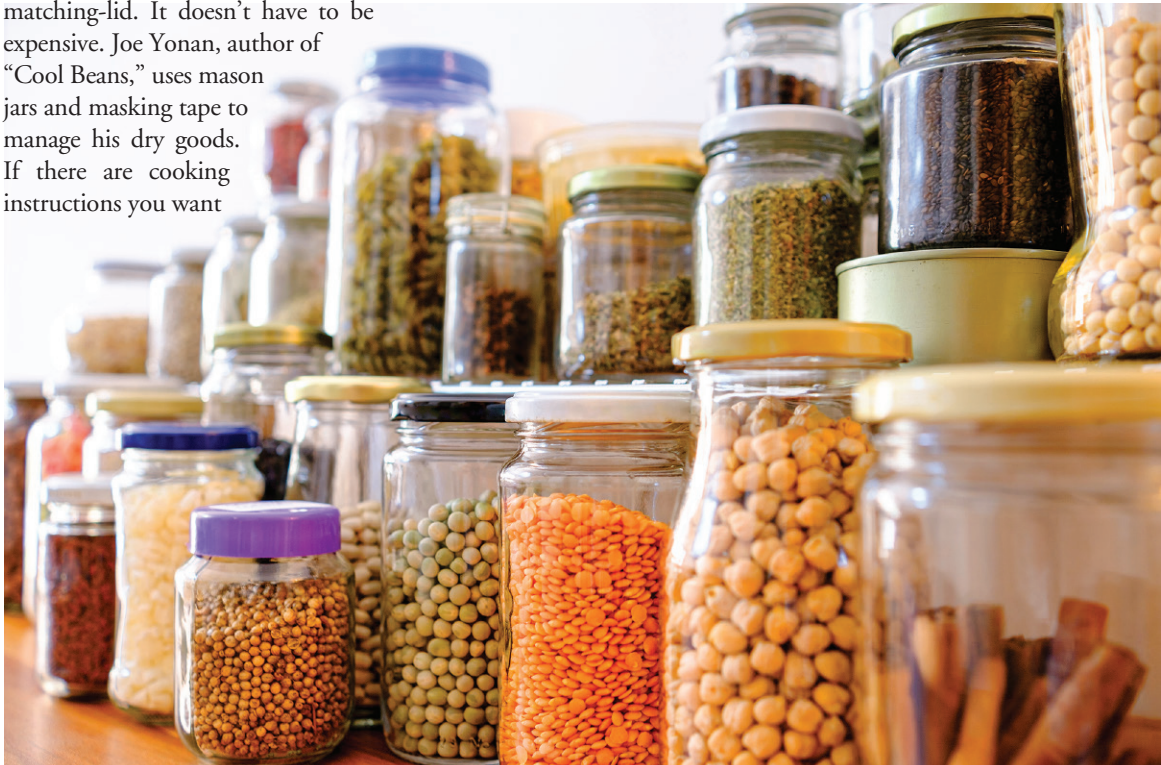
LOOK BEYOND THE KITCHEN

When professional organizer Tanisha Porter, owner of Natural Born Organizers, moved to Los Angeles, her kitchen was seriously short on storage space. So she took advantage of an underutilized wall in her dining area. She purchased floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and wicker baskets that fit the shelves, and she used the setup as a pantry. “It was functional, organized and aesthetically pleasing,” she says.

BUILD MAINTENANCE INTO YOUR ROUTINE

Rotate your stock as you put away groceries, says Marissa Hagmeyer, co-owner of Neat Method. “I take five minutes to decant and bring older items to the front.” Yonan recommends rounding up as you cook to avoid remnants: If making 2 cups of rice means just 1/2 cup remains in the pantry, cook it all now and freeze the extra, rather than leaving little bits. ■

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in our community

## CURIOUS ABOUT WEEVILS

by Zoraida Payne

Since 2006 the South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) has been feeding on our iconic but non-native Canary Island date palm trees all over San Diego County. The increased presence of this infestation is evidenced in our own neighborhood. We could wish this elegant and historical tree would not be the desired victim of the weevil, but reality confronts us to ponder... what can we do? So, after posting an informative weevil article in Nextdoor on July 19, 2021, an incipient group of six neighbors was formed. Their raison d’etre is to self-educate and share the knowledge of experts with the community.

This destructive palm pest —1 to 1.5 inches in length— is deadly and damaging mainly to the Canary Island date palms. Once the damage is visually spotted—yellowing of the foliage; flattening of the crown; holes, tunnels, an accumulation of frass at the base of fronds; pupal cases on the ground near the palm— there is a triple threat. First, the tree’s top will fall, given that the core has been eaten. Second, the weevil will victimize another palm. Third, dead palms



Dead Canary Island palm from South American Palm Weevil on Ridgeway in July 2021. During the removal, the damaged frond was dropped, and weevils were spotted walking in the area, further dispersing the infestation.

are extremely flammable. Therefore, if you detect an infested tree in a public area, please report it to the city for prompt removal. If you have an infested tree in a private space —given that it will fall, continue to spread the pest, and is extremely flammable— you need to privately act for the common good.

After my experience with the tree removal done by the

city, I have 2 Crucial Tips for Removal. First, I strongly suggest that you request professional arborists to handle it; so, the insect is killed before removal. Otherwise, when dropping the tree, weevils walk all over and infest other nearby trees. Chipping the plagued plant is also desirable. Second, request to Cover the infested tree before transportation. Clearly, the removal should NOT further spread the infestation, but mitigate the forcible extinction of these beautiful trees. Furthermore, Report the Palms Infested at U.C. Riverside Palmarum Survey.

- DIFFERENT COURSES OF ACTIONS THAT COULD BE TAKEN:**
- 1. Preventive treatment plan.** University Heights Historical Society is doing it; its work could be accessed through its website.
  - 2. Biological Control of SAPW.** In the early

stages of the invasion, the rhynchophorae could potentially reduce weevil populations, attested Mark Hoddle, Director of the Center for Invasive Species Research at UCR.

**3. Plant Natives for the Future.** Bringing back native trees for a sustainable ecosystem such as “multitude of oak species, or California bay, or Box elder, or Sycamores, or Catalina cherry, or Santa Cruz ironwood, Palo Verde, etc.” is the advice given by Greg Rubin, 2018 San Diego Horticulturist of the Year, who also wrote two popular books on California native landscaping. Nowadays, the City of San Diego offers a free tree for public spaces upon request. Certainly, requesting a native tree for our community helps to conserve water and create a fire-resistant urban canopy.

We do have a problem with these devastating weevils, and we can take wise steps to

mitigate the damage wrought by these weevils. I invite you to be digitally curious about the constant attack of the weevil in different parts of the world, to google all the references above mentioned, and to choose appropriate environmentally friendly trees when reducing our carbon footprint. Making your call to implement a safe removal and intercept native, non-flammable trees in public areas could be one way to collaborate toward an environmentally sustainable future. ■

*Zoraida Payne, originally from Argentina, has been a Kensington resident with her husband and three kids since 1997. She is a former Spanish teacher and recent graduate from SDSU with a masters in American History. She has been contributing as a historical researcher, writer, and docent at Coronado Historical Association since 2015.*



## PROJECTS TO PERK UP YOUR PATIO

by Kathryn Weber

With projects on your mind at home, it’s time to start thinking about enjoying the patio. A few small projects can take that dull, blank space and turn it into a patio with panache.

- 1. Paint the floor.** Plain Jane concrete isn’t something to get excited about; but painting the concrete can perk up your porch or patio. Go to your local paint store and have them help you pick out a color and give you all the prep materials. It’s more time-consuming than hard, but a painted patio looks neat and stylish.
- 2. Paint your furniture.** Over the winter or after several years outdoors, patio furniture can lose its luster. Sand and spray-paint your furniture to bring it back to life. If you have a big set, look for a local painter who can sandblast and powder-coat your furniture to make it look like new again.
- 3. Create a seating area or an eating area.** Give your patio a defined eating or seating space with an indoor/outdoor rug. Add a seating arrangement to create an outdoor living space or a table for some al fresco dining in your new outdoor room.

- 4. String up some lights.** Add some string lights across the patio for great Mediterranean bistro ambiance at night. Add a timer so the lights pop on and off automatically.
- 5. Place lanterns around the space.** Romantic and ethereal, candle lanterns set artfully around a seating area, next to a chair or on a dining table are uber-romantic and create a layered lighting effect.
- 6. Electrify it.** Install a sound system or electrical outlets to enjoy TV on the patio. With Wi-Fi-enabled speakers and televisions, you can turn your patio into an outdoor living room.
- 7. Add water.** Create a patio fountain out of a planter. Cluster a grouping of plants around an urn, pop in a fountain pump from your home center, and you have a terrific sound that’s peaceful and can help drown out background noise.
- 8. Get unique seating.** Make lounging outdoors more inviting with a swinging bed hung from the ceiling or a pair of swinging rattan chairs. They’re trendy and will be the seat everyone wants to sit in when you go outside.

- 9. Re-cushion chairs and couches.** Patio cushions



take a beating from the elements and the sun, so replace to refresh and update your patio. Mix solid seat cushions with patterned throw pillows for a homey feeling.

- 10. Add shade or structure.** If your patio is flat and exposed, it’s time to add an arbor or string up some sunshade fabric that will give you much needed shade and help you enjoy more time outdoors comfortably.

A patio project is the perfect way to get some fresh air and prepare for the summer months ahead. ■

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in our community

# TALMADGE ART SHOW!

by Sharon Gorevitz & Alan Greenberg

The first in-person Talmadge Art Show for 2021 is Sunday November 21, 2021 at Liberty Station Conference Center. 2600 Laning Rd. in Pt Loma right off Harbor Drive.

There will be 70 extraordinary craft artists who are creating very special work for this show. The work will include: functional and artistic pottery; glass, paintings, jewelry of all types, cards, fiber art, modern wearable art, hats, purses, textile art, wall and garden art including bird houses and more.

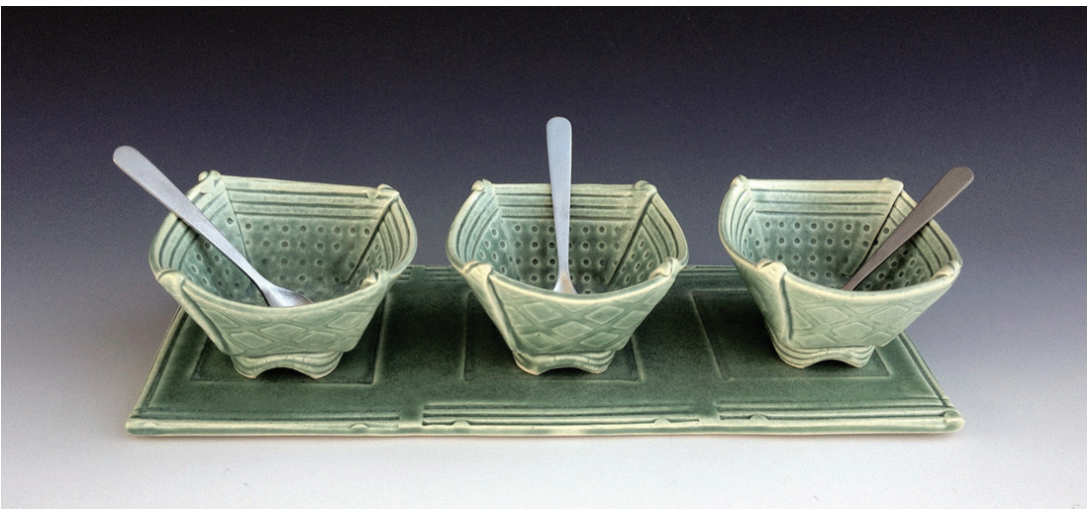
Plus there will be two amazing craft groups representing glass and clay: The Fire Breathers who create amazing works in glass as well as the Clay Artists of San Diego (CASD). Come and find that special piece for you or for a gift!

Admission to the show is free as well as free parking. If you bring in this story, you will receive \$10 off your purchase of \$150 or more (before tax). The list of artists, directions and more is at [www.talmadgeartshow.com](http://www.talmadgeartshow.com) or by calling 619-559-9082.

The Talmadge Art Show began in the 1936 home of Sharon Gorevitz and Alan Greenberg, the producers of the show and the offices remain in that location. Every December, there is a Pop-Up show at the house in Talmadge as an homage to where it all began 27 years ago.

There is something for everyone at the Talmadge Art Show! From \$5 to \$500. Find that creative gift that you have been looking for.

Masks and sanitizer will be available. Plus there will be a coffee truck at 10am and a food truck at 11am. Enjoy a Sunday at Liberty Station by going to the Talmadge Art Show. See you there! ■



SPOTTLIGHT

## creating space

by Heather Luckhurst  
of Setting for Four

It only takes a small amount of outdoor space to enjoy the sun on your face and the breeze in your hair from the privacy of home—but if your outdoor space is petite, you might want to consider incorporating a few of these ideas to help your mini getaway feel a little more spacious than it actually is. These tips can help boost your enjoyment of your outdoor space while fooling everyone into thinking it's bigger than it is.

### 1. USE OUTDOOR DRAPES

Adding drapes (in outdoor fabric) to your small space will draw the eye up and draw attention away from a small footprint. And in addition to expanding the vertical space, outdoor drapes also create a cozy vibe that will make your outdoor space feel even more like a comfortable outdoor addition to your living area. Use a bamboo pole as a curtain rod or purchase an outdoor metal curtain rod to hang your drapes. Look for drapes made with Sunbrella fabric or another hardy, outdoor-friendly material to help protect them from the elements and prevent color fade from UV rays.

### 2. HANG A MIRROR

Adding a mirror to your small outdoor space will reflect the light and make the space feel more open. This is a quick and easy way to make your tiny deck, gazebo or patio appear much grander than it

### 4. PICK SMALL SCALE FURNITURE

Don't make your small space feel cramped by using outdoor furniture that's too big. Adding small-scale chairs and a table, like a bistro set, will not only increase

actually is! (Hint: This also works inside, should you have a room that you'd like to feel a little more spacious.)

### 3. LAY OUT TALL PLANTERS

Adding one or two tall planters filled with flowering annuals, perennials or succulents will draw the eye up and minimize the small square footage of your outdoor space. Add a small cedar tree, boxwood shrub, tropical plant or miniature ornamental tree if you

### 5. HANG STRING LIGHTS OR LANTERNS

A string of outdoor lights will illuminate and visually open up your outdoor gatherings as well as brighten up those dark corners. Decorating with outdoor lights is

prefer greenery over blooms. You could also fill a tall planter with branches and faux floral sprays if you don't have a green thumb.

a great way to fill the vertical space and draw the eye upward. Add dimension and style with any of these hanging light ideas: paper lanterns, decorative metal lanterns, outdoor battery-powered chandeliers or mason jars filled with tea lights and sand. ■



## 5 WAYS TO MAKE YOUR SMALL OUTDOOR SPACE LOOK DECEPTIVELY LARGE

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## Mike's Recent Market Activity

# - HISTORIC KENSINGTON -



**KENSINGTON! • 4891 East Alder Drive**  
Traditional style, canyon lot! Four bedroom two bath in beautiful condition with an open floor plan, remodeled kitchen and lower level family room. All main living activities on one level! Attached two car garage and plenty of storage.  
**Offered at \$1,395,000**



**KENSINGTON! • 5025 Kensington Drive**  
Spanish! Three bedroom two bath on a large corner lot! Formal LR, DR and Family Room plus a beautiful island kitchen. Over 1900 square feet and a lovely wrap around patio and yard.  
2 car garage.  
**Offered at \$1,429,000**



**KENSINGTON! • 4169 Rochester Road**  
REPRESENTING BUYER on this three bedroom, two bath Spanish hacienda with significant upgrades! Beautiful LR w/fplc and formal DR as well as an eat in fully remodeled kitchen. Both baths remodeled too! Spectacular and spacious yard!  
**Offered at \$1,475,000**  
*Listing courtesy of Metropolitan Group*



### FOR THE RECORD:

*Kensington Has 96 Historically Designated Homes Mike Tristani Has SOLD 34 of Them!*

*No One Has SOLD More Homes in Kensington Than Mike Tristani!*



**KENSINGTON! • 4930 Marlborough Drive**  
Spanish! Three bedroom two bath single story with pool and courtyard entry! Ready for some upgrades to kitchen and baths, this home has significant potential!  
Private rear yard as well!  
**Closed at \$1,440,000**

**OVER  
\$250,000,000  
IN 92116  
CLOSED SALES!**

*Who will YOU  
call for 92116?*



### ALVARADO ESTATES! MILLS ACT PROPERTY!

**4777 AVION WAY  
OFFERED AT \$2,349,000**



Over 3300 square feet with the Mills Act in place! Built by master architect Cliff May in 1965 this single story ranch of four bedrooms and four and one half baths is on a one acre corner parcel with views, spectacular pool and a generous covered patio. Furrowed concrete ceilings, formal dining, a stunning and open living room with beamed ceiling and fireplace set the stage. A professional and well crafted island kitchen will satisfy the most demanding entertainer. Quiet, tranquil and on a canyon this Alvarado Estates home will please all who visit!

*Check out:*

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Search the entire San Diego Multiple Listing Service for ALL listings in San Diego County!

**MIKE TRISTANI CLASSIC SAN DIEGO HOMES**

If your home is currently listed for sale, please excuse my proactive marketing. It is not my intention to solicit the listings of other brokers.

