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February, 2015

## How Does Someone Create a More Interesting Life?

I was reading a blog post that asked people how they would define an "interesting life" for themselves. After reading the responses, I thought I'd share one with you that I particularly liked.

Having an interesting life doesn't mean it has to be interesting to anyone else. It also doesn't mean you have to do the typical things most people associate with being interesting, such as travel.

The definition of the word interesting, in application to life, is different to everyone.

I have done things such as swim with dolphins, ride a horse along the beach, rappel down a steep cliff, star in high school plays, have my picture in the newspaper, ride home on the first train of morning because I missed the last train the night before, roll around in a large plastic ball on water, walk on stilts for a circus company, teach a college course, sew my own clothing, make actual useful things in woodshop, and more. The list of random things goes on and on.

Are these things going to make me famous? No. Are they exciting enough to make a book out of? Probably not. Do you think any of those things are interesting at all? I have no idea. But I feel I've had an interesting and meaningful life so far.

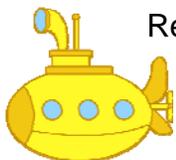
Sometimes what we think of as interesting is some external idealized life. But if you listed all the things you've done in your life, I'll bet you'd have a fairly long list of things that you found interesting at the time, and even more so in hindsight. From that list, you may find yourself feeling motivated to do something a little different to recapture that feeling of doing something interesting. Go for it!

Sincerely,

*Lisa*

Lisa Flashenburg  
Your Real Estate Consultant For Life

**P.S.** I'm amazed at the interesting things people have done with their lives. Next time we talk, I may just ask you about some of the interesting things you've done. You can always reach me at: [lflashenburg@LegalEdgeRE.com](mailto:lflashenburg@LegalEdgeRE.com) or 781-975-0803.



Recently I went 100 ft deep in a submarine in Cozumel. Now that was certainly something out of the ordinary!

# Lisa's Local Ledger

News To Help You Save Time And Money

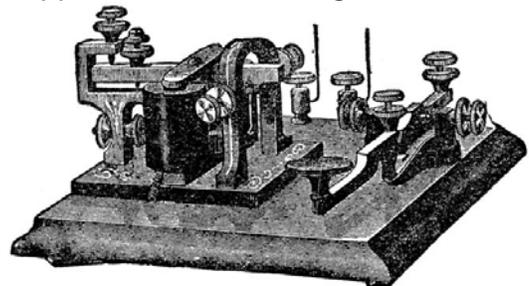
February 2015

## When You're Right For The Job...

In the 19th century, when the telegraph was the fastest method of long-distance communication, a young man went to apply for a job as a Morse code operator.

At the job location, he found a busy office filled with noise and bustle and the ever-present clatter of a telegraph in one corner. He joined ten other applicants, all following instructions written on a blackboard that said to sit and wait to be summoned for an interview.

But after five minutes, the young man stood up with a smile and walked confidently into the office without an invitation. The other applicants looked at each other, and smiled. All expected the brash young man to be tossed out the door.



Ten minutes later the manager came out of the office. "Gentlemen, thank you for your time, but the position has been filled."

**How will the Year of the Sheep impact the value or your home?**

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"What?" The group jumped up, annoyed. "You haven't interviewed any of us!" they cried. "Just that one kid who disrespectfully barged through your door."

The manager nodded. "Exactly. See, here's the thing. While you were sitting here, that telegraph in the corner has been ticking out a message in Morse code. It has been saying '*If you understand this message, then ignore the blackboard and come right in.*' None of you apparently paid attention to it, if you even understood it at all. That young man did. The job is his."

*What I take away from this is that when you're right for a job, it's obvious to both yourself and others.*

*Lisa*

# Origin of Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day is a popular tradition in the United States. It is also a legend that traverses centuries, with origins clouded by other stories that predict the weather based on events happening or animals awakening on specific dates.



February 2nd is the day that in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, a groundhog named Phil comes out of his hole after a long winter. If he sees his shadow, he is startled and retreats. People regard that as an omen of more bad weather to come. If the day is cloudy and shadowless, the groundhog stays above ground, and people regard that as an omen that winter will end early because the groundhog is ready to start gathering food.

The groundhog tradition stems from similar beliefs by early Christians in Europe around Candlemas Day, when the custom was to have clergy bless candles and distribute them. It marked a mid-winter milestone, and traditions that combined the weather and lighting of the candles sprang up.

Roman legions, during the conquest of the northern country, supposedly brought this tradition to the Teutons, or Germans. They morphed it into the idea that if the sun made an appearance on Candlemas Day, a hedgehog would cast a shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of bad weather.

Pennsylvania's earliest settlers were Germans, and they found groundhogs in profusion where they resettled. They determined that if the sun appeared on a particular day in mid-winter, the groundhog would "meet" its shadow, be frightened, and hurry back into its underground home for another six weeks of winter. Groundhog Day has since been centered on the location of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania in the US, but has spread in popularity to other countries, as well.

## Is This A Good Candidate?

A manager was interviewing a job candidate. After reviewing the applicant's qualifications, he went on to some questions designed to probe the man's personality.

"If you could have a conversation with someone, living or dead," he asked, "who would it be?" The candidate thought for a moment and then responded, "The living one."

## February Quiz Question

**Q:** *If you were running a race and you passed the person in 2nd place, what place would you be in now?*

Everyone who texts, 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

Five Guys Burgers

## January Question

**Q:** *What word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?*

**A:** *Short.*

Congratulations to:  
Shannon Green.

# Try Edible Landscaping

Edible gardening is thrifty, good for the planet and good for our health by providing plenty of fresh food for our diet. But many people avoid growing food because they can't imagine planting and maintaining a vegetable garden.

Luckily, edible landscaping doesn't have to be so utilitarian as planting a vegetable garden. Making edible plants part of your overall landscaping plans can result in a beautiful outdoor space, full of interesting textures and designs that taste as good as they look.

An easy approach to growing food involves starting with a simple one-on-one replacement. Switch out just one ornamental plant or tree with something similar that's edible. Then try it again with something else. Go at whatever pace suits you.

In the book *The Beautiful Edible Garden*, the authors offer several simple swaps, including: replacing a magnolia tree with a fuyu persimmon, planting peppers in place of zinnias, using hanging tomato plants in place of hanging spider plants, and switching out boxwood with blueberries. Chives and onions add texture and purple flowers, while leafy greens can replace broad-leaf ornamentals.

Growing food in your yard provides an inexpensive source of produce and the chance to grow unusual varieties. It also saves water, since you are already watering the lawn and ornamentals anyway. Finally, there's something satisfying about having a source of food in your own yard.



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*If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success. —James Cameron*

## A Penny Saved...

**...is a penny earned.** You might be interested to know that this old saying is not true. The saying implies that by keeping the penny, you are being wise. But the idea that you can earn money by saving it is backwards. You need to *invest* that penny to earn.

Both saving and investing have their places in good financial planning. The trick is to both save some pennies and make others grow through wise investing.

Perhaps the saying should be "A penny saved is a penny kept." Or perhaps "A penny invested is a penny earned."

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WORK WITH OTHER  
BUSINESSES THAT  
GIVE OUTSTANDING  
CUSTOMER SERVICE?**

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

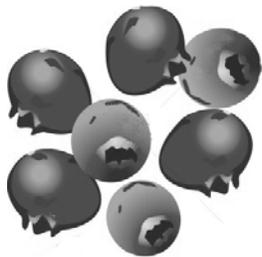
# Foods That Help Fight Off The Flu

It's never too late to protect yourself, as well as your friends and family, from the flu. A flu shot may be your best line of defense, but you can also keep the flu virus at bay by eating well. Here are some flu-fighting foods:

**Chicken soup.** Once again, your mother was right. Chicken soup provides fluids that help fight off viruses and reduce inflammation caused by the flu.

**Garlic.** Compounds in garlic (also onions) known as allion and allicin have an antiviral impact. For maximum effect, chew a raw clove every four hours, or chop the clove into smaller pieces to swallow like pills. (This will also keep you from spreading the flu, as people will not want to come too close.)

**Pumpkin seeds.** The zinc in pumpkin seeds is said to help white blood cells fight off disease.



**Citrus fruits.** The vitamin C found in citrus fruits (as well as red bell peppers, broccoli, and sweet potatoes, among other foods) can reduce flu symptoms by up to 25 percent.

**Blueberries.** Blueberries contain antioxidants, which can strengthen lung tissue that is damaged during the flu and other respiratory illnesses. Eat half a cup of fresh or frozen blueberries a day during flu season.

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*"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them."  
~ Lady Bird Johnson, former U.S. first lady*

## Don't End Home Prices In Zeros

Pricing your home with zeros at the end may generate lower offers. Studies show that buyers perceive a precise price, such as \$281,284, as lower than rounded ones, such as \$280,000, even when the rounded prices are actually lower.

Real-life sales show that zeros at the end of an asking price lower the final sold price by .73%. That may not sound like much, but .73% of a \$280,000 home equals \$2,044.

### 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!

LaToya Carter referred by  
Rashaud Garner

David Kent

We love recognizing our wonderful new friends and existing clients who are kind enough to introduce their friends, family and neighbors to us.

The data suggests that if you price your home at \$281,284, chances are better that you'll get your asking price, while pricing at \$280,000 means you're more likely to get an offer of \$277,956.

## Fun In Rio With Carnaval

The largest of Brazilian Carnaval festivals, the Rio de Janeiro celebration draws 500,000 foreign visitors each year. The raucous four-day event culminates on Fat Tuesday, ushering in Ash Wednesday and a time of abstinence. This year Carnaval is February 13–18.

Carnaval first came to Rio around 1850, and over time its French flavor evolved to embrace many African and Amerindian cultural elements. Dance and music play a starring role in the celebrations, as do balls and masquerades. During Carnaval, class hierarchy is set aside and cultural roles are explored and reversed via costume.

The heart and soul of Rio Carnaval springs from the *favelas*—the poorest neighborhoods. Residents of the favelas unite in well-practiced street bands that march during the festivities, dancing and sharing their music in full costume. The dominant musical style of the parades and street celebrations is samba, and the participating neighborhoods have their own year-round “samba schools.” Members compose and perform their own music and create elaborate costumes and floats for the Carnaval period, which culminates with the fantastical Samba Parade.

## Flashy Car Doesn't Always Win Dates

Men who hope that a fancy sports car will help them attract a girlfriend or a wife may be fooling themselves, according to a survey of more than 2,000 adults conducted by a Harris Poll on behalf of the Anastasia-Date, an online dating service. In the survey, 56 percent of women said that they view men who drive exotic vehicles as “show-offs,” and 17 percent think they're insecure.

One reason flashy vehicles may work against men: Women in the survey reported that they often evaluate a man's attitudes about families by noticing the type of car he drives, and a small two-seater suggests he's not interested in children.

On the other hand, one in 10 of the women indicated that they'd date a man they weren't physically attracted to if he drove a fancy car, because his evident success

### “Lisa's Legends' Congratulations to:

*Who do you know that has done something outstanding this month?*

A high five to the brave souls that dealt with the elements at the OES Ritual Seminar on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. We were able to make a nice donation to Rainbow Camp.

A big thank you to all the snow plow drivers in New England.



matters more than his looks.

## Wonder Bread's Proud History

The first print advertisement for Wonder Bread came out before the bread itself. It stated only that “a wonder” was coming. When it arrived, Wonder Bread was considered the perfect loaf.

That evenly sliced, squishy, moist, perfectly white, industrial loaf was a designed solution to a critical problem of the day...consumers were complaining that they didn't know where their food was coming from.

In a strange quirk of cultural de-ja-vu, that is the exact same statement that modern food purists use against Wonder Bread: We don't know where our food comes from...real food doesn't look like that.

Here's how Wonder Bread became a welcome solution before it became an iconic symbol of bland.



For most of humanity's long history with bread, we baked bread in homes. Eventually small bakeries cropped up to supply bread for more people, but they weren't a picture of purity. Bakeries of the early industrial age were dirty and often underground, usually with terrible working conditions. You never knew when the baker would cut costs by mixing the dough with sawdust or other horrible additives.

Also, around the late 1800s and early 1900s, people became more aware that cholera and typhus, among other diseases, were food-borne illnesses.

### ***Free Reports!***

- How Sellers Price Their Homes

### **Free Information!**

- The 10 Dumbest Mistakes Smart People Make When Buying Or Selling A Home
- How To Buy A House With Little (Or No) Money Down

**Free Newsletter  
Subscription!**

**See page 7**

That's when people started getting interested in where their food came from. Back at the turn of the century, that meant avoiding locally baked bread. Factory bread, the thinking went, was made by clean hands in a modern, light-filled palace of industry. One could see that factory-made bread was clean and healthy, because it was spotless and white.

## Entrepreneurial Ingenuity

A police officer found a perfect hiding place for watching for speeding motorists.

One day, the officer was amazed when everyone was under the speed limit, so he investigated and found the problem.

A 10 years old boy was standing on the side of the road with a huge hand painted sign that said "Radar Trap Ahead."

A little more investigative work led the officer to the boy's accomplice. He found another boy about 100 yards beyond the radar trap holding up a sign reading "TIPS," with a bucket at his feet full of change.

# LISA'S LOCAL LEDGER

## Free Information Request Form

Please complete the box below and place check marks next to the free reports and information you'd like to receive a. Fax this form to 781-575-9995 or mail it to: Lisa Flashenburg, 905 Turnpike St., Ste. A-1., Canton, MA 02021 or just call me at 781-975-0803

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[email: Lflashenburg@LegalEdgeRe.com](mailto:Lflashenburg@LegalEdgeRe.com)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the requested free information selected below via  Mail  Fax  Email.

### Free Reports

- Protect Your Home From Burglars
- Five Deadly Mistakes Home Sellers Make
- Making The Move Easy On The Kids
- 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 Lisa's Local Ledger? Provide me with their contact info., and I'll add them to my mailing list.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Seniors Documenting End-of-Life Wishes

The percentage of senior citizens with living wills was 72 percent in a recent study, a record number and a substantial increase from 47 percent in a previous study five years earlier. A living will is a written statement detailing a person's desires regarding their medical treatment in circumstances in which they are no longer able to express informed consent, especially an advance directive.

The figures come from research published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, examining data from the Health and Retirement Study conducted by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research on behalf of the U.S. National Institute on Aging.

