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No more denying it or trying to hide from it . . . **Summer is here!!!**

Those of us who have to work in the heat just have to grin and bear it but if you get a chance, go somewhere cooler, stay home in the air conditioning and make something refreshing or go to a nice cool theatre and watch a good movie.

I've included a great summer recipe in this issue and a recommendation on movies and books that I encourage you to take action on.

But if you're hopelessly mired in the reality of summer and want to work

off bad karma, check out my "Helpful Hints" to assure yourself, among other things of the cleanest toilets possible.

## LEMON BASIL CHICKEN SALAD

Here is a great recipe for these hot, hot, hot dog days of summer. It's cool and really refreshing. Your guests will love it too


- 4 cups cooked, diced chicken
- 1 rib celery minced
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup sliced almonds
- ¼ cup chopped, fresh basil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1½ tsp ground black pepper
- 1½ tablespoon fresh lemon juice



♣ In medium bowl, combine chicken, celery, basil and almonds.


♣ Combine sour cream, mayo, lemon juice, salt and pepper tossing gently to coat

♣ Cover and chill . . . **Enjoy!!!**



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## MOVIE & BOOK REVIEW

I'm *REALLY* excited about sharing this with you. Have you heard of the author **Stieg Larsson**?

He who wrote what is now called the "Millennium Trilogy" made up of the three novels "*The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo*," "*The Girl Who Played With Fire*" and "*The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest*."



He was part way through the fourth novel when he died of a heart attack. Posthumously, the three novels were published, became best sellers and then movies. I'm here to tell you that whether you read the books, watch the movies or do both—as *I am doing*—you will be glad you did.

The primary characters in the series are [Lisbeth Salander](#) and [Mikael Blomkvist](#). Lisbeth is an intelligent, eccentric woman in her twenties with a [photographic memory](#) whose poor social skills sometimes give way to extreme violence. Blomkvist is an investigative journalist, a celebrity in his own right, and has a history not totally dissimilar to Larsson's own. The trilogy has been made into three films:

The first, *Män som hatar kvinnor* (literally *Men Who Hate Women* or as the book is known in English-speaking markets *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo*) is available on DVD in Swedish with Scandinavian and English languages subtitles only.

The second, *Flickan som lekte med elden* (*The Girl Who Played with Fire*), is now showing at Harkins Camelview

The third, *Luftslottet som sprängdes* (literally *The Air Castle That Exploded*, but known in English-speaking markets as *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets' Nest*) will be coming to our area before the end of the year.

Larsson wrote about three quarters of a fourth novel before his sudden death in November 2004. His partner, **Eva Gabri-*elsson***, possesses the notebook computer with the manuscript and outlines or manuscripts for one or two more books may exist.



To me these are *Hitchcockian*.

Great plot, great characters, lots of surprises and, so far fantastic endings! This is "*Book/Movie Cult Great*"—Don't miss them!!!

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## MARKET-UPDATE

I thought you might like to see how the first 6 months of 2010 compares to the first six months of 2009. For those of you who don't like charts the answer is—**Much Better!**

The even better news is that all indications are that this trend is expected to continue. As we've said before—*A long, slow climb back.*

Nevertheless, here is what happened in 2010:

- ☺ Approximate 8% increase in Closed Transactions
- ☺ 6% increase in Average Sales Price
- ☺ 5% increase in Median Sales Price

You will also notice the dramatic shift in properties Sold. Less Lender Owned properties and more Short Sale and Seller owned properties.

Jan/June 2009n	Sold	Average Sale Price	Median Sale Price
Lender Owned	28,377	\$119,092	\$ 95,000
Short Sale	4,395	\$194,583	\$150,000
Seller Owned	11,821	\$267,329	\$189,900
<b>2009 Totals</b>	<b>44,593</b>	<b>\$165,943</b>	<b>\$120,750</b>
Jan/June 2010	Sold	Average Sale Price	Median Sale Price
Lender Owned	19,137	\$130,198	\$103,000
Short Sale	10,003	\$165,106	\$125,000
Seller Owned	19,392	\$227,663	\$158,260
<b>2010 Totals</b>	<b>48,532</b>	<b>\$176,423</b>	<b>\$127,000</b>

## MONSOON SEASON!!!

Even though monsoons have only been threatening to this point I want you to be prepared when they come.

- Visibility is near zero when monsoon storms are raging. When driving in a dangerous storm, find somewhere to safely park your car.
  - If you pull over to the side of the road, do not leave your lights on. Drivers will think you are still on the road and follow you. *Smack!! Ouch!!!*
  - Do not huddle closely together with people.
  - If your hair starts to stand on end, you may be about to be struck by lightening. Drop to your knees and cover your head
  - Avoid open areas.
  - Do not drive through washes.
- Rain comes swiftly and heavily
- Do not use a telephone
  - Avoid golf carts, metal equipment and one irons *unless your Michael and I'm angry with you!!!*



## HELPFUL HINTS

**Here are some invaluable kitchen helper hints that I've picked up and want to share . . .**

- 🍴 Do not use metal bowls when mixing salads. Use wood, glass or china. The acid in the salad dressing can react with the metal in the bowl
- 🍴 To remove egg shells from a batter – use the remaining shell to attract the piece



🍴 Drain deep fried foods on brown paper grocery bags as opposed to paper towels to retain crispness (*especially if you like your bacon crisp!!!*)

🍴 Add a small amount of lemon to the artichoke cooking water to retain the color of the artichoke

🍴 Use canola or peanut oil for deep frying. It is low in saturated fat, has a high burning point and does not detract from the flavor of the food you are frying

**Toilet cleaning time again?? We'll if you have to, here are some quick tips from The Queen of Clean . . .**

- 🍴 Denture cleaning tablets—Drop one or two into the toilet and let sit for 20 minutes or so. Swish and flush!
- 🍴 Tang in the toilet—A teaspoon or two of Tang or other orange drink will clean up the toilet (It's the citric acid). Put it in, let it sit for 20 minutes or overnight, then swish and flush. Even if the dog drinks out of the toilet, it can't hurt.
- 🍴 If you have that black hard water line around the toilet, shut the water off behind the tank and flush to remove most of the water. Spray on some white vinegar and sprinkle a little Borax. Use a piece of fine drywall sandpaper (it looks kind of like a window screen) and rub to remove the line. *Presto—It's gone!!!*

**Mirrors and Windows—Absolutely my least favorite things to deal with. I can never seem to get the last smudge off without creating another smear . . .**

- 🍴 *Mirrors*—Spray a clean cloth with a mixture of 50% rubbing alcohol and 50% water. Spray onto a paper towel, wipe and buff with a dry towel. Never spray directly onto the mirror
- 🍴 *Shower doors*—Rub on lemon oil (found in the furniture polish area) and rub with a scrubbing sponge. Wash off with soap and water. It's quick and easy
- 🍴 *Foggy Bathroom Mirrors*—No one wants to waste precious time in the morning defogging a bathroom mirror. Try this bathroom cleaning tip to make mirror defogging part of your weekly bathroom cleaning ritual. Clean the mirror once a week with a solution of dishwashing liquid and water or rub the mirror with shaving cream and rub it off well with a soft cloth. *No more morning fog!!!*