

# Brookside

monthly

YOUR COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

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## Getting Your Home **SOLD!**

The Bullock's, current Brookside homeowners show off the key to their new home. We asked several Brookside Realtors what it takes in today's market to get your home sold. **SEE PAGE 9**

From left to right, Nathaniel, Charlene with daughters Keneisha, Natalie and Courtney

### speakup

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### yourcommunity

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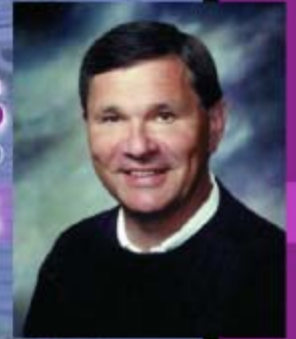


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**A**pril brings the wonderful Easter Holiday. With Easter, there are as many symbols of this Holiday as there are family traditions. I have put together some of the most famous of the day.

The Easter celebration was coordinated with older, pre-Christian celebrations of spring. The direct relationship to Sunday as the day sacred to the Sun, the ultimate symbol of life, is obvious; yet the subtle connections to the earlier celebrations of the time of planting and the Moon are of equal importance in determining the day of the Easter celebration.

The Easter basket originates from the ancient Catholic custom of taking the food for Easter dinner to mass to be blessed. This, too, mirrored the even more ancient ritual of bringing the first crops and seedlings to the temple to insure a good growing season.

Of all the symbols of Easter, none is more beloved than the Easter Bunny. And, of all the symbols of this season, none has a more varied, unique and universal background than this floppy-eared chocolate confection deliveryman. With his place—and yes, for some reason, the Easter Bunny is always referred to as “he”—in the traditions of many cultures, Rabbit can most certainly answer the question, “What’s up, doc?” (after all, what would Elmer be without Bugs?). If you are planning to surprise someone with a real bunny this holiday, make sure they are responsible to take care of this “pet” all year. Although it is a cute idea to buy a rabbit at this time of year, there are many pet stores that are inundated with people wanting to return these pets after the newness wears off.

The association of eggs with the Easter Bunny is actually a recent one. It seems to be the result of an ad campaign (believe it or not) by European candy makers who wanted to advertise their product. The egg, long a symbol of fertility, had long been a traditional staple of Easter celebrations. The pairing of the Easter Egg and the Easter Bunny at the end of the nineteenth century was not only a stroke of marketing genius, but also well-founded in the traditions of the past.

The egg, like the Rabbit, has become fused into the spring festival of Easter throughout the world. Whether colored, hollowed or made of candy, the source of a child’s delight or a symbol of faith, this image of new life and renewal certainly has made its own nest in the human cultural psyche.

One of the things that I love best about living in a diverse community is the different ways we celebrate Easter. Whether it is the wonderful family foods or the activities that the children play, the day is filled with traditions that are handed down from one generation to the next. Even though spring officially starts in March, Easter seems to represent a fresh start to a new season. Neighbors start to freshen up their yards planting flowers and trees. With temperatures reaching the mid 70’s and daylight savings, our children can play games outside such as as football and baseball. However you celebrate Easter and the start of a new season, I hope you and your family have wonderful conversation, great food and lots of jellybeans!

Mitzi Stites | *Managing Editor* | [editor@bigmonkeygroup.com](mailto:editor@bigmonkeygroup.com)

## CORRECTIONS

Advertiser Club Z In-Home Tutoring Service listed an incorrect phone number in their ad, their correct number is 209-473-2403.

address P.O. Box 690397 Stockton, CA 95269-0397  
phone 209.478.0145 | toll-free fax 866.298.0408  
[www.bigmonkeygroup.com](http://www.bigmonkeygroup.com)  
[www.brooksidemonthly.com](http://www.brooksidemonthly.com)

## Brookside

monthly

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## Send Us Your Letters

Do you have a story idea, know of someone who has done something worth telling the community about? Then we want to hear from you! Send us an email at [editor@bigmonkeygroup.com](mailto:editor@bigmonkeygroup.com) or fax to 866.298.0408.

### Important City Numbers

Animal Control .....	937-8274
Brookside Country Club Main .....	956-6200
Brookside Country Club Golf Shop .....	444-4725
Brookside Monthly Magazine/Big Monkey Group .....	478-0145
Councilmember Leslie Martin .....	952-6555
Code Enforcement .....	937-8815
Graffiti Hotline .....	937-8040
Inadequate Property Maintenance .....	937-8815
M&C Associates .....	644-4900
Stockton Police Non-Emergency .....	937-8377
Non Emergency Fire Department .....	937-8801
Stockton Sailing Club .....	951-5600

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Congressman McNerney reads Dr. Seuss' 'The Lorax' to second graders of the Claudia Landeen School.

## Easter Bunny Arrives, Green Eggs & Ham...& Much More!

### Easter Bunny Returning To Mickey Grove Park

Peter Cottontail will scatter 15,000 candy and toy-filled eggs at the Micke Grove Regional Park as part of the Micke Grove Easter Egg Hunt, set for Saturday, April 7th from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the park's San Joaquin Shelter. Free toys, donated by Toys R Us, will be distributed to children while supplies last. Children under 10 years need to bring their own baskets to participate in one of the following hunts: 11:15 a.m. ages 3 and under and physical-ly/developed disabled 10 and under. 11:30 a.m. ages 4 to 6 and 11:45 a.m. ages 7 to 10. For more information you can call 331-2050 or log onto [www.mgzoo.com](http://www.mgzoo.com)

### Easter Brunch At Banner Island Ballpark

On Easter Sunday, come out for brunch, baseball and an Easter Egg Hunt. Game begins at 2:05 p.m. with brunch starting at 1:05 p.m. and lasting two hours. As many as thirty plastic eggs will be hidden around the stadium and each one will contain a voucher for a great prize from local business and restaurants. The Easter Bunny will be in attendance and anyone can take photos with him.

### Happy 50th Birthday Cat In The Hat!

While this year's Read Across America was celebrated all across the nation the local schools celebrated this way:

Claudia Landeen students were very busy making hats, had a gold-fish activity, read with pillows and stuffed animals, experienced green eggs and ham, played tic-tac-toe, green eggs in a row and having birthday cupecakes. Congressman McNerney read Dr. Seuss' 'The Lorax' in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday to the second graders of the school.



Kindergarteners Lilivette and Aaron during Merryhill's Read Across America celebration.

The Kindergarten classes at Merryhill cooked green eggs and ham.

### Summer Camp Arriving In Brookside Soon!

At the end of March camp flyers were sent home. Merryhill has been planning an exciting Summer for all students. This Summer, camp will be

Continued on page 5

**The Goodie Bag**  
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**Around Brookside**

*Continued from page 4*

filled with field trips, swimming and creative workshops. Feel free to call Merryhill School with any questions.

**Way To Go Merryhill School**

February brought great news from the WASC accreditation team. Merryhill School at Brookside has been awarded WASC accreditation. Congratulations, to everyone at the school.

**Brookside Housing Market**

For the month of February, 62 Brookside homes were for sale, 14 were pending sale, 7 sold, 3 expired and 10 were withdrawn or cancelled. For properties sold, average days on market was 94, median square footage price was \$246.56, median sold price was \$405,000 and median size was 2495 square feet. Properties currently available are priced from \$329,000-\$2,500,000. Current market data taken from San Joaquin County TrendGrapix, courtesy of Sheree Cox, Coldwell Banker Grupe 955-5522.

**Project Delta Runway**

The Drama Department at Delta College is putting on a fashion contest and show on April 21st called Project Delta Runway. This event is a way for the Drama program at Delta to become more visible to the community, and will hopefully draw more students into their classes and productions.

**The Women's Center of San Joaquin County**

April is recognized across California and the nation as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The purpose of Sexual Assault Awareness Month is to increase the public's understanding about sexual violence in our society. The Women's Center of San Joaquin County is having an open house event on Thursday, April 5, 2007 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. In addition, the Women's Center will be participating in the statewide event known as Denim Day on April 25, 2007, to help raise awareness and eliminate myths about sexual assault. For more information please contact Jennifer Busalacchi, Rape Prevention Coordinator, at (209)941-2611.

**Bowl For Pets**

Animal Friends Connection Humane Society is hosting their fifth annual "Bowl for Pets" fundraiser at Westlane Bowl on Saturday, April 14th 2007. For fun, food, prizes and free bowling, all you need is to collect \$50.00 or more worth of Pledges. Brochures for this pledge driven event will be available at West Lane Bowl, Vino 100, or Boggiano's in Stockton, Weigums Nursery, the Kingdom of 4 Paws or the Animal Friends Connection office in Lodi, or log on to the AFCHS website at [www.animalfriendsconnect.org](http://www.animalfriendsconnect.org)

**Merryhill Students Of The Month**

K- Aaron Hotchkiss, Jill Martin  
1st- Dylan Fagundes, Chandler Sanguinetti, 2nd- Alisha Miller, Naje Murray, 3rd- Samantha Webster, Mario Patino, 4th- Danielle Maillard  
5th- Thomas Spanos, 6th- Melissa Ramos, 7th- Marissa McGriff  
8th- Navpreet Chima

**Pillar of Character - Fairness**

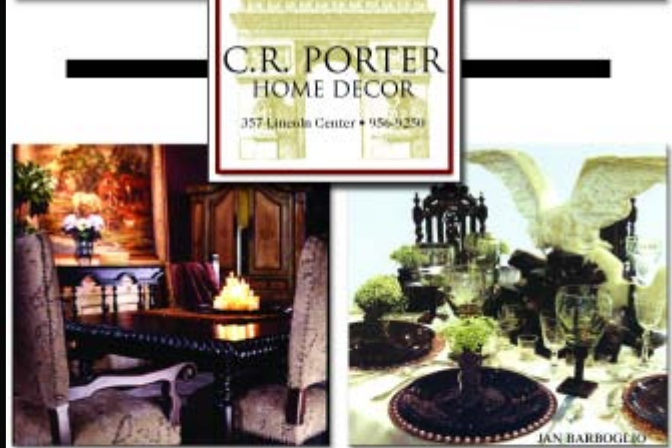
K- Joy Pojim, Athena Karan, Alex Garduno, Grace Yoon, Leonardo Hardy, 1st- Sanjana Singh, Isaiah Sullivan, Benji Albala, 2nd- Erika Coates, Jordan Trotter, Richard Lott  
3rd- Jack Stensland, Shaila Emani, Patricia Macedo, 4th- Anthony Dominguez, Somya Jasti, Ilias Lopez-Corona, 5th- Christian Candelaria, Ashwin Balaguru, Shareen Mann, 6th- Andrew Magnasco, 7th- Ainslee Burns  
8th- Maryam Nabizadeh

**School Dates To Remember For April**

**Merryhill Elementary School**  
April 1-April 6 | 8th grade D.C. Trip  
April 5 | Monthly Assembly | 8:45  
April 9-13 | Spring Break  
April 23-27 | Stanford Testing for School  
Claudia Landeen  
Elementary School  
April 6-13 | Spring Break No School  
April 23 - May 4 | State testing for grades 2-8  
April 24 | School Site Council | 6:00PM  
April 24 | PTSA 7:00PM  
**Brookside Elementary School**  
April 6-13 | Spring Break  
April 19 | PTSA Meeting | 7:30PM | Library  
April 23 - May 4 | Star Testing  
**Lincoln High School**  
April 6-15 | Spring Break  
April 24-April 28 | Senior Assemblies, Cap and Gowns distributed | Dates and Time TBA  
April 23-May 4 | Star Testing

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## Getting To Know Your Neighbor



From left to right: Mary Lee, Jane Lyles, Gloria Pile, Marcella Posada (back), Jupyter Williams and Diana Orozco.

### Delta Blood Bank

Address: 2888 W. March Lane

Hours: Mon. & Tue. 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Wed. & Thurs. 12 p.m.-7 p.m., Fri. thru Sun. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Web site [www.deltabloodbank.org](http://www.deltabloodbank.org)

#### Who can donate blood?

You are eligible to donate blood if you are at least 17 years of age, (16 years of age with parental and physician consent), weigh at least 110 pounds and you are in good health.

#### How often can I donate?

Whole blood donors can give one unit (approximately one pint) of blood every 56 days (8 weeks).

#### How long is the donation process?

The entire process, from the time you enter the donor center until the time you leave, generally takes no longer than an hour. The actual blood donation takes between 6 to 10 minutes. The rest of your time is spent in reception, in the donor history and the post donation refreshment area. Upon arrival, you will be greeted and registered, and then a brief medical history will be taken. Your pulse, blood pressure and iron level will be checked. You're then settled into a comfortable chair where a trained and certified phlebotomist will draw your blood. After the donation, you will be asked to enjoy some refreshments in the canteen. In California, donors are asked to remain on site for at least 15 minutes. At this time, we encourage donors to make a commitment for their next visit. Delta Blood Bank would like to see you several times a year; as frequently as every eight weeks.

#### What should I do prior to donating blood?

Continue with your normal daily activities. You should eat a light, low fat meal, preferably without meat, several hours before you plan to donate. (If you do eat a heavy meal, it should not prevent you from donating.) Try not to eat just before you arrive, as this may cause your blood to be a bit cloudy. Drink plenty of fluids (non-alcoholic) before and after your donation.

#### What will I feel?

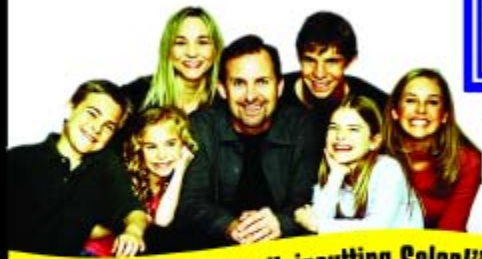
Most individuals find donating blood to be a very rewarding. Most donors describe the phlebotomy itself as similar to a sharp pinch. The nursing staff is well trained in blood collecting. Everything is done to ensure your comfort and enjoyment of this life giving experience.

#### How do I make a difference?

The majority of us will need a blood transfusion at some time during our life. Nine out of ten people will need some blood component to sustain their life. Your blood donation will help two or even three individuals. Every time you donate blood, your good health is making someone else better. The only source of that blood is from the generosity of volunteer community blood donors like you.

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# Brookside Estates Stockton's Premier Community

*This month's featured properties:*

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**4380 Spyglass Drive**  
Choose your options with this great semi-custom Grupe home in Brookside Estates. Can be 3-6 bedrooms with 3 1/2 baths. Over 3100 square feet with a huge lot. Price starts at **\$695,000 As is up to \$850,000 Finished**



**3780 Bridlewood Circle**  
Fussy Buyers only! This classy Brookside Estates home will have you placing your furniture as soon as you walk in! Featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bathrooms with upstairs loft (possible 4th bedroom). Upgraded features including maple cabinets, plantation shutters & designer carpet & paint. Won't last long! **\$410,000**



**4418 Spyglass Drive**  
It's time to show off this one-of-a-kind Beauty! Featuring the popular Grupe Ontario floorplan with the versatility you've been searching for. Granite kitchen counters, stainless appliances, travertine flooring, romantic lighting, integrated sound system & spectacular landscaping. Don't pass on this 4 bedroom 3 1/2 bathroom stunner! **\$749,000**



**4545 Winding River Circle**  
You will feel right at home in this sensational 5/6 bedroom 3 bath Brookside West home. So many upgrades and designer features, you just have to see it for yourself. Gorgeous backyard with pool, spa and RV parking. **\$549,000**



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# Selling Your Home May Take More Than A MLS Listing

**W**hen buying or selling your home, there are many situations that can come up that can make the entire process confusing. With interest rates changing daily, APR's, points and sliding commission scale it is no wonder selling your home is one of the most stressful things a person can go through. What can you do to make your home stand out over the house that is for sale down the street? Should you lower your price, just a little? Maybe plant bright flowers in your yard, or redo your kitchen cabinets. The options are endless. With so much at stake seeking the advice from professionals can be essential. But where can you go? Who can you trust? There are just as many people giving you advice as there are home improvement shows giving you step by step instructions on how to do things yourself.

We asked several well known Brookside realtors what it takes to get a "sold" sign on your home, here are their suggestions...

Agent Name: Eric Quillinan  
 Realty Company: Help U Sell  
 Location: 4555 N. Pershing Avenue,  
 Suite 11 Stockton, CA 95207  
 Phone: 209 888-8800  
 Web: www.helpusell.com/alpharealty

**How is the Brookside housing market in comparison to rest of Stockton?**

Slow or slower. School district choice, golf course or levee waterfront lot, and mature landscaping are the three main distinctions Brookside has compared to other new developments in Stockton, gated or not. There are several other neighborhoods around Stockton that offer similar size homes at lower prices competing with the north March Lane side of the Brookside development. Southside with the golf course and custom homes are still the premier addresses for the discriminating buyer.

**What moves homes: (interest rates, marketing, staging homes, price, etc...)**

Price and condition of the home. If the home has any deferred main-

tenance, expect request for repairs or credits in escrow to the buyer. For each tract home there may be half a dozen or so similar models also on the market, so staging and interest rates have little impact.

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sumer in the center of the transaction, innovative marketing strategies, expert brokers and agents, and a proven track record.

Agent Name: Sheree Cox  
 Realty Company: Coldwell Banker Grupe  
 Location: 3428 Brookside Rd.,  
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 Phone: 209 955-5522  
 web: www.shereecox.com

**What moves homes: (interest rates, marketing, staging homes, price, etc...)**

There is no #1 thing that is selling homes right now; it is a combination of all the right things. Pricing, staging, buyer exposure & the right financing are all moving homes right now. It is an intricate balance.

**Do you see the housing market ever reaching the sellers market it was a few years ago?**

Yes, as inventory dwindles & interest rates lower the sellers market will return. It is a cycle that we have seen in Real Estate throughout the years. If I had a crystal ball, I

*Continued on page 10*

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## yourcommunity

### Brookside Homes Continued from page 9

would say it may be 3-4 years before we see that again.

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### How is the Brookside housing market in comparison to rest of Stockton?

The Brookside housing market, just like in other areas of Stockton, is starting to pick up. In many cases, people are interested in moving into the neighborhood because it is a desirable area to live in and located in an outstanding school district (Lincoln Unified). Brookside's covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&R's) helps maintain a high standard of living and property values in the nearly 3,000 homes. I believe that the excellence and reputation that the Brookside neighborhood enjoys will continue to make it a place that buyers will want to be a part of.

What moves homes: (interest rates, marketing, staging homes, price, etc...)

Continued on page 12

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**Brookside Homes**  
*Continued from page 9*

While curb appeal and condition of the home will entice buyers to take a look, ultimately, it comes down to correctly pricing the home to sell. Now is a great time to buy a home because of the low interest rates and an abundance of homes for sale. For a house to stand apart, sellers need a Realtor that can put all of these pieces together.

**Are there home improvements that can increase the value of your home and help you sell your home faster?**

If you own an older home perhaps doing a bathroom or a kitchen remodel will help your home be up to standard and competitive with newer homes. In this market, where buyers have a choice between existing homes and new homes, in the same price range, you would want to offer comparable amenities (i.e. granite countertops, newer bathroom and kitchen fixtures). Also small repairs you know that need to be taken care of should not be overlooked. Less expensive things to do to spruce up your home such as painting, putting tiny touches, such as more colored flowers in the front yard, give the home a lot of bang for the buck and create a warm and inviting home that someone will want to buy and call home.

I believe that PMZ Real Estate fosters strong training foundation for its agents, management personnel, and administrative support. PMZ has created a professional and friendly work environment that provides its agents' unparalleled support with the latest internet technology, technical and

marketing support, and agent training. It makes my job as a Realtor easier, knowing that I've got behind me, a company that fosters a spirit of excellence. PMZ strives to provide the best customer service to our clients – where the emphasis is helping our clients achieve their goals – whether its buying or selling.

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**How is the Brookside housing market in comparison to rest of Stockton?**

Unfortunately, Brookside is not immune from the downturn. It's suffered its fair share of price reductions.

**What moves homes: (interest rates, marketing, staging homes, price, etc...) price?**

In today's market, homes must be competitively priced in order for potential buyers to consider looking at your home.

**How important is curb appeal in selling a house?**

Curb appeal is very important as it sets a first impression.

**Are there home improvements that can increase the value of your home and help you sell your home faster?**

Keeping the house clean (spotless) and declutter is key.



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