

Gail & Ingrid's

TIPS FOR NOVEMBER!



New home buyers as well as out-of-towners

often have questions about the escrow process in California. Escrow is a company that carries out the instructions of both the buyer and seller that are part of the mutually agreed items in the sales agreement. They receive documents and lender's instructions and act as a repository for money. When all documents are received, the escrow company closes escrow, disperses the funds as scheduled, and prepares closing statements for both parties. In California it is not customary to have a lawyer at the closing, although you can have one if you choose.

If you keep a lot of money in a bank or credit union,



you'll be pleased to know that recent law changes means that these accounts are now federally protected up to \$250,000, up from \$100,000. And if this is a joint account, each person gets \$250,000 protection. You can also increase coverage by opening accounts in different banks and credit unions.

Happy Thanksgiving



Experience isn't expensive... it's PRICELESS!

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To help reduce waste and pollution

there's a new Los Angeles city ordinance that bans plastic bags after January 1 in large stores like Ralphs, Target, Walmart, Vons, CVS, etc. If you don't have a recyclable bag with you, you'll have to purchase paper bags at the rate of 10 cents each.



This is also true for hardware stores like Home Depot and Lowes, at convenience stores like 7-Eleven, and at retailers like Macy's, JC Penney and Ross. For some small retailers, the ban doesn't start until July 1. Reusable bags are widely available for purchase at retail stores.

Consumer Reports magazine says there will be several products



that will be cheaper this coming holiday season...like digital cameras. Point and shoot cameras have dropped 10% this year, as manufacturers have to deal with customers who take pictures with their phones and tablets. Another one that you wouldn't suspect is cookware. Experts say they have dropped 20% since last year...most likely caused by the competition from celebrity chef lines. Television sets have dropped 10% or more since last year. The large screen models have gone down the most. Competition is expected to be so strong this coming holiday season that buyers might see cuts of 25% or more.

Coming Soon...



Brill Drive, Studio City, \$2,495,000

"1920's Restored Spanish Gated w/Views"



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