



Beverley Val'Rie



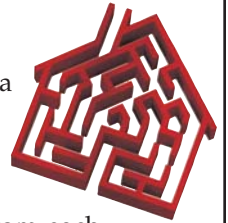
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"Making Your Real Estate Dreams Reality"

## Health & Safety

### Fire Escape Plan



Did you know that fire can spread so rapidly through a home that you and your family may have only a few minutes to escape? Here's how to create and practice a home fire escape plan that can insure your family's safety:

- Draw a floor plan of your home, clearly noting two exits from each room. Keep the established escape routes clear at all times, and ensure that windows and doors identified as exits can easily be opened.
- Every family member must understand and be able to execute the escape plan.
- Place escape ladders near second-floor windows.
- Practice your escape routes. Conduct fire drills regularly, and at random times during the day and night until the procedure becomes routine.
- Install a smoke alarm on every level of your home; test them monthly and change the batteries once a year.
- Establish a safe place for everyone to meet after they've escaped the fire.
- Assign someone to be responsible for seniors, infants, or family members who may require assistance.

Remember - once you're out, under no circumstances should you ever attempt to re-enter a burning structure.

## Household Tips

### Shop Smart on the Internet

Are you looking for ways to stretch your hard-earned dollars? Get discounts on the products and services you use by harnessing the technology of the Internet. Check out these tools and become a smart, frugal shopper:

- Find the cheapest gas in your neighborhood by visiting [gasbuddy.com](http://gasbuddy.com), [gasprices.mapquest.com](http://gasprices.mapquest.com), or [gaspricewatch.com](http://gaspricewatch.com). Simply enter your zip code to quickly find the closest and cheapest place to fill up your tank.
- Visit [billshrink.com](http://billshrink.com) to find the best credit card based on your spending habits, or the best cell phone plan.
- [MyGroceryDeals.com](http://MyGroceryDeals.com) shows local grocery store discounts and features printable coupons. Search for coupons by category using [Grocerycoupons.com](http://Grocerycoupons.com).
  - When shopping online, comparison shop before you buy with Google Product Search, Yahoo Shopping, BizRate.com and PriceGrabber.com.
  - If there's a spot to enter a coupon code at check-out for an online purchase, do a quick Internet search. You may just find one, and save some moolah with very little effort.



With the change of seasons fast approaching, it is a good time to check your weather stripping to be sure it doesn't need replacing. Call me today and I will provide you with several tips on preparing your home for winter weather.

Some people don't realize the benefits of a Home Protection Plan. However, as an experienced Real Estate Professional, I would like to explain how a quality Home Protection Plan can benefit you, whether you are selling or buying a home. A good Home Protection Plan ensures the repair or replacement of major covered home systems and appliances that fail due to normal use. For Sellers, this provides added value to your home when it is on the market. For Buyers, this means peace of mind and confidence in the purchase of your home. I advise all my clients to include a Home Protection Plan with their transaction, and the company I trust to provide the best service and coverage is **Old Republic Home Protection**. Call me today for more information about how this valuable service can be put to work for you.

If you have worked with me in the past, you have experienced my dedication and commitment to ensuring your home purchase was a smooth and positive experience. I promise that same commitment to your family, friends, and acquaintances. Please tell them how much I will do for them!





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## Savor the Flavor

### Creamy Corn and Potato Chowder

#### Ingredients:

- 2 Tbsp butter
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 1 rib celery, finely chopped
- 5 ½ cups chicken stock
- 1 ½ cups frozen corn kernels
- 1 large potato, peeled and diced
- ½ to ¾ teaspoon salt, to taste
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tbsp all-purpose flour
- Black pepper, to taste
- Fresh dill or parsley for garnish, chopped

Melt butter in a large saucepan or medium soup pot. Stir in the onion and celery. Partially cover the pan and cook the vegetables over moderate heat for 9 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the chicken stock, corn, potato, and salt and bring to a low boil. Lower the heat, cover the pot, and simmer for about 7 minutes, until the potatoes are just tender.

In a small bowl, whisk together the cream and flour. Stir the mixture into the soup along with the pepper. Bring the soup back to a low boil, then reduce heat and simmer for about 8 minutes. Garnish with herbs and serve hot.

## Helpful Hints

### Kids Deserve Quality Time

Even though your life is packed with activities and obligations, it is essential to nurture your child by spending quality time with him/her. Here are four simple suggestions for fitting quality time with your kids into your busy life.

1. Read to your children – they love reading time, and it promotes good reading and learning skills. Plus, making it part of your child's bedtime routine helps them settle down and fall asleep.
2. Turn chore time into quality time by making a routine chore a job for two. You'll build camaraderie while teaching your child responsibility and teamwork.
3. Play board games such as Monopoly or Candy Land with your kids. It's a fun way to share quality time!
4. Create a hobby to share with your kids - or try an activity that interests your child.

Make playtime a commitment by scheduling it in your calendar. You'll find that spending quality time with your kids not only enriches the parent-child relationship, but also gives you time to simply enjoy each other's company.



## Brain Teasers

### State & Capital Quiz



1. The capital of our 50th state is:
  - a) Honolulu
  - b) Juneau
  - c) Austin
2. Albany is the capital of the state which is home to our largest city. The state is:
  - a) Texas
  - b) California
  - c) New York
3. This state is bordered on three sides with Canada, and its capital is Augusta. The state is:
  - a) Michigan
  - b) New Hampshire
  - c) Maine
4. The capital of the state with the most land area is:
  - a) Austin
  - b) Juneau
  - c) Honolulu

ANSWERS: 1-A; 2-C; 3-C; 4-B