



Derek & Debra KIRK

916-213-5715 916-2718-3742
RealEstate@DereksHomes.com DebraKirkHomes@aol.com



M&M Associates

9129 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624
699 Washington Blvd., Roseville, CA 95678

www.DereksHomes.com

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February issue



The history of St. Valentine's Day

Lovers around the world can thank a Roman priest for our celebration of love and romance on February 14.

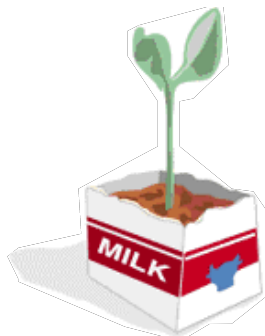
During the mid 200's Emperor Claudius II of Rome banned marriages or engagements due to the difficulty of enlisting soldiers in the military. Valentine, a Christian priest, secretly married couples despite the emperor's decree. Eventually, Valentine was imprisoned and put to death on February 14, 270.

As history unfolded and the Christian Church gained more power in Rome, the priests began to eliminate pagan festivals. Lupercalia, an ancient Roman festival celebrating fertility was replaced by honoring St. Valentine's Day.

FAMILY GARDENING TIPS

Start small. Window boxes or containers, because of their small size, can actually turn out to be rather luxurious gardens. Recycle clean bleach and milk containers. Cut off the tops and use them as planters.

- Leave an area where kids can dig, even after planting. This is often their favorite part of gardening. Look for earthworms together!
Get some child-sized tools from a local nursery or garden center. Try to find tools that look genuine so the kids will feel like real gardeners. Can't afford it? Plastic spoons and shovels work well in window boxes.
Make a secret place in the garden for your kids. Leave a space between the stalks of easy-to-grow sunflowers or bean poles so they can crawl "inside." Make a chicken wire animal and train ivy around: instant topiary!



Kids like extremes, so plant huge flowers, like sunflowers, and small vegetable plants, like cherry tomatoes. Plant fragrant flowers or herbs like peonies, lavender, and chocolate or

pineapple mint.

- Teach your kids how to compost. Find a place behind a tree, or dig a hole in the ground. Don't add anything that ever swam, walked, or flew. Toss in rinds and peels from fruit, coffee grounds, tea bags, eggshells. When it turns black and

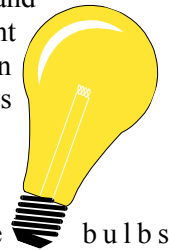
crumbly (this will take several months) you can mix it with soil and use this for fertilizer for your garden. Don't forget to put your gloves on first.

- If you're interested in more organized children's programs, check with local parks departments or public gardens to see what they offer.



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Today's energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs last up to 10 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, and each compact fluorescent saves up to \$50 in electricity costs over its life.



- 1. Use lower wattage bulbs wherever possible and turn off lights not in use.
2. Use fluorescent lights. Compact fluorescents use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer.

OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

How do you decide who to marry? You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

Alan, age 10

What is the right age to get married? Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

Camille, age 10

What do you think your mom and dad have in common? Both don't want any more kids.

Lori, age 8

What do most people do on date? Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

Lynnette, age 8

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour? I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.

Craig, age 9

When is it okay to kiss someone? The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that.

Curt, age 6

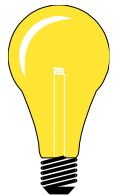
Is it better to be single or married? It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

Anita, age 9



THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

1. Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
2. Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.
3. There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.
4. The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
5. A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.
6. There are more chickens than people in the world.
7. On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag flying over the Parliament building is an American flag.
8. No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
9. All 50 states are listed across the top of the Lincoln Memorial on the back of the bill
10. Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.
11. A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.
12. A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
13. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
14. It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
15. The giant squid has the largest eyes in the world.
16. In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
17. There are 336 dimples on a regulation golf ball.
18. "Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.



...Now You Know
EVERYTHING!

