Steve Laevastu & Roger Turner are your EXCLUSIVE Maple Leaf Realtors

Continued

one in four adults (23%) say the place "in their heart" they consider home isn't where they are living now. That report also cited Census data indicating that Americans are changing residences less often than they used to: Only 11.9% moved between 2007 and 2008, the lowest share since the government began tracking this measure in the late 1940s.

Seattle is the sixth most popular destination for movers, according to a survey by moving coordination service Relocation.com of New York. Las Vegas is the top destination for people making a state-to-state move. Las Vegas was followed by Denver, Charlotte, Phoenix/ Mesa, Portland, Orlando, Washington, DC, Atlanta, and Tampa Bay/St. Petersburg.

WHAT ARE CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY

Dear Steve,

We would like to thank you for the top-notch service you provided as our selling agent. You were responsive, timely, informative, friendly, very accessible, and very hands-on.

You convinced us in just one meeting that we should choose you as our agent, and you were right! Our entire experience was seamless (for us, anyway!) and very easy.

You offered us great tips on little things we could do to improve the marketability of our home, and our house looked stunning while it was on the market, in large part due to your diligence in keeping it up while we were away. We were very impressed by the compelling and comprehensive flyer you created for our home, and the beautiful pictures you posted online.

Ultimately, our home sold for $20k more than the asking price, and you negotiated a fantastic deal. You kept our best interests at heart through the whole process, while also remaining fair to the buyers and potential buyers. We will attest that you have great integrity and reliability, in addition to being a terrific salesman!

We also really appreciated your offer to assist us with any of the closing documents on our new home (which we were purchasing through my late grandmother's trust, and therefore, didn't have an agent for), at no additional cost. This offer exemplifies the high-touch service you provide to your clients.

Thank you again for all of your successful efforts. We will be sure to recommend you to all of our friends and family, and will definitely use you again in the future if/when we are buying or selling a home!

Warmest regards,
Michael and Jessica McFarlane

To Whom It May Concern:

As a mortgage banker I have been involved with thousands of property transactions. I recognize the need for a professional real estate agent when buying or selling a home. That's why in my personal transactions I have employed the services of Roger Turner, a truly professional agent. I appreciate his attention to detail and knowledge of the local market. Whenever I buy or sell a property I consult with Roger.

Sincerely,

Steve Baird
Countrywide Home Loans

CITY COUNCIL STATEMENT ON GARY LOCKE'S NOMINATION AS COMMERCE SECRETARY

"The Seattle City Council congratulates Gary Locke on his nomination by President Barack Obama as U.S. Commerce Secretary.

"As our former governor, King County executive, and state legislator, Gary Locke, if confirmed, will bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the Department of Commerce. Locke's experience in governing a Pacific Rim state and in international trade will bring valuable perspective and insight to U.S. trade policies at a time when international trade has become fundamental to recovering our regional, national and global economies.

"A native of Seattle, Governor Locke is the third leader from our city to be tapped by President Obama for a post in his administration. The Council is proud of Gary's selection and wishes him great success."

Archives of previous meetings, news releases and copies of legislation are available on the Council's website at www.seattle.gov/council . Council meetings are cablecast live on Seattle Channel 21 and Webcast live at www.seattlechannel.org/viewer_live.asp . Questions about Council news releases can be directed to Kimberly Reason, Council Communications, at 206-684-8159, or by e-mail at kimberly.reason@seattle.gov .

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Need help buying or selling your home? Contact Us!

Additional Community and Real Estate information for the Maple Leaf Neighborhood is available online at *http://www.MapleLeafHouse.com*

MARCH 2009

MAPLE LEAF
NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISOR

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SOLD HOMES

The following is a list of homes that sold in our Maple Leaf Neighborhood over the last month. Do you wonder what your house is worth? The décor, the features and condition all have a bearing on the price a house will command. We have seen the interiors of most of the homes in this list. If you are selling your home, please let us help you. We would be happy to view your home, prepare a market analysis and discuss the details with you. We can provide you with useful information, such as a sales price that might be realistically expected in today's market.

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate/ Oak Tree Inc
http://www.mapleleafhouse.com

Address	Bed	Bath	Style	Age	Sold Price
7826 Lake City Way NE	2	1	1 Story w/ Bsmnt.	1925	$315,000
1236 NE 96th St	2	1.5	2 Stories w/ Bsmnt	1934	$320,000
9611-B Roosevelt Way NE	2	1.5	Townhouse	2008	$380,000
9607 15th Ave NE	5	3.25	1 Story w/ Bsmnt.	1995	$380,000
8607 15th Ave NE	3	2	1 1/2 Stry w/ Bsmt	1926	$406,000
858 NE 91st St	3	2.5	Townhouse	2005	$410,000
8112 Latona Ave NE	4	2.5	1 1/2 Stry w/ Bsmt	1926	$475,000
843 NE 96th St	4	2	1 1/2 Stry w/ Bsmt	1927	$533,750

STATE OF THE CITY 2009
SEATTLE MAYOR GREG NICKELS

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM THE MAYORS "STATE OF THE CITY 2009" SPEECH.

Wise investments

Consider some of the things that give us cause for optimism: Our crime rate is the lowest in 40 years. Violent crime is down again this year, and the number of property crimes in 2008 was less than it was in 1967.

Transit ridership is at record levels. Recycling participation is at an all-time high. Our libraries are the busiest they have ever been. We're attracting more artists, musicians and movie-makers – We gave permits last year to 365 film productions – including 15 feature films –to shoot in Seattle, the most in a decade.

No doubt, our city budget will face more challenges in the coming months. But working together with the City Council, we will make wise decisions. This is not the first time we've faced tough times.

to build a new park. Northgate is fulfilling its destiny as a great urban center.
Later this spring, Amazon.com will move forward with the latest phase of its headquarters complex. In July, the Gates Foundation broke ground for a $500 million campus that will make Seattle a center of global health and philanthropy.

The path forward: Creating jobs and opportunities for all.

Over the next two years, Seattle will continue fixing our roads and bridges, improving our utilities and parks—creating jobs for 5,000 people. But we can do more. Last week, I announced "Seattle Jobs Forward," a package of local steps to boost our economy and get people employed quickly. Working with the council, we will accelerate road, sidewalk projects and environmental work. We'll even get people good-paying jobs to help restore our urban forests. The reasoning is simple: we need immediate action to put people to work right away.

Another breakthrough took place last November, when voters passed the light rail plan, "Mass Transit Now." One year ago, after the defeat of a Roads and Transit measure, there was little appetite to go back to voters. The skeptics said 2008 wasn't the year for mass transit. But as chairman of the Sound Transit board, I worked with our regional leaders, and organized a grassroots campaign. And voters approved a light rail extension by a margin none of us dared to dream. We won, because voters understand that light rail provides more than an alternative to the freeway. It infuses energy into neighborhoods and creates places where people want to live. Now, by extending light rail to north to Lynnwood, south to Federal Way and across the lake to the east side, we'll create 69,000

Seattle Events Calendar

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
MARCH 17, 2009 - SEATTLE CENTER - DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

Starting from 4th Ave at Jefferson in downtown Seattle at 12:30 PM... the parade heads north on 4th Ave to the reviewing stand at Westlake Park, with closing ceremonies at 2 PM at Seattle Center.

NORTHWEST WOMEN'S SHOW
MARCH 27-29, 2009 - QWEST FIELD AND EVENT CENTER - DOWNTOWN SEATTLE

This 3-day Women's Show will feature seminars on health, wellness & finance; fashion shows; cooking demonstrations. Past celebrity appearances featured the world-famous Richard Simmons ... Anne Rule ... Susan Powter ... and Martin Yan.

Northwest Women's Show hours are Fri-Sun 10 AM - 6 PM. Tickets are $15.

DAFFODIL FESTIVAL GRAND FLORAL PARADE APRIL 4, 2009 - TACOMA

The famous Daffodil Festival will be celebrating it's 76th Year in 2009 and takes pride in calling the grand State of Washington it's home. The Daffodil Festival is an annual event that culminates in April with a Grand Floral Street Parade, traveling through the cities of Tacoma... Puyallup... Sumner... and Orting - all in one day.

STG PRESENTS: HOT JAVA COOL JAZZ
THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
FRIDAY - MARCH 27, 2009 - 7:30PM

Come experience future jazz legends live! Last year, Seattle area high school jazz musicians performed in front of a sold-out house at the historic Paramount Theatre. Don't miss this extraordinary showcase of the city's finest young jazzoids performing with their bands, quartets, quintets, and other combos.

For more information visit us online at:
http://www.theparamount.com

SAKURA-CON 2009
04/10/2009 THROUGH 04/12/2009
(206) 694-5000
WWW.SAKURACON.ORG/

Sakura-Con is the first and largest Japanese Animation Convention in the Northwest, It features Asian Culture, Anime, Manga and Gaming 24 hours a day for three days.
Among headliners, "Hangry and Angry" will make US premiere at this Con. For more info

Windermere
Windermere Real Estate / Oak Tree Inc

jobs over the next 15 years.

Let there be no mistake. After four decades, the debate over mass transit is over. Within a decade and a half: We will finally have a transportation system worthy of this great region.

Next month, we will break ground to extend light rail to the University. This segment will create about 2,900 direct jobs and connect three neighborhoods: the UW, Capitol Hill and downtown. Trains will run every 7 minutes initially and eventually every 3 ½ minutes. Imagine catching a train on Capitol Hill near Seattle Central Community College and arriving in either downtown or the UW in just 3 minutes. That will happen in just a few short years as will a new streetcar line that will connect Capitol Hill, First Hill and the ID.

Strong families, healthy communities

Difficult economic times present a real challenge for city government. Falling revenues put pressure on our budget, just as people need our assistance more than ever.

This coming year, we will spend about $40 million to help the homeless—more than all other cities in Washington State combined. When I became Mayor, I vowed to take a new approach, to make a real attempt to break the cycle of homelessness.

This fall, I'm going to ask Seattle voters to join me again and reach out to those who need a home or are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage. Four times, beginning in 1981, our residents have supported housing assistance. We must do so again. Consider what we accomplished with the last housing levy: Every year, we've given emergency rental assistance to more than 500 households. We've created and preserved more than 1,800 affordable rental units. And we've helped more than 200 first-time homebuyers. I know we face tough times, but I am confident that this fall, Seattle voters will once again step up to help our neighbors keep a roof over their heads.

Our "Homes Within Reach" program encourages builders to create units for workers making below the median income. And we're telling developers: If you want permission to build taller buildings, you have to set aside units that are affordable to our workforce, or provide other benefits to the community. I want to thank Councilmembers Clark and McIver for helping us making sure Seattle remains affordable.

SEATTLE 3RD MOST DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE

NWREPORTER MARCH 2009

Seattle ranked third – behind Denver and San Diego – as a place Americans most want to live, according to a new national survey. Conversely, when asked about specific metropolitan areas where they would like to live, respondents ranked Detroit, Cleveland and Cincinnati at the bottom. (See boxes.)

WHERE AMERICANS WANT TO LIVE (TOP 10)

	WOULD LIKE	WOULD NOT LIKE
	%	%
DENVER	43	55
SAN DIEGO	40	59
SEATTLE	38	60
ORLANDO	34	65
TAMPA	34	64
SAN FRANCISCO	34	65
PHOENIX	33	64
PORTLAND	31	66
SACRAMENTO	29	69
SAN ANTONIO	29	68

Ranked by percentage that say they would like to live in each city. Percentage with no opinion not shown.

WHERE AMERICANS DON'T WANT TO LIVE (BOTTOM 9)

	WOULD LIKE	WOULD NOT LIKE
	%	%
DETROIT	8	90
CLEVELAND	10	88
CINCINNATI	13	84
MINNEAPOLIS	16	82
KANSAS CITY	15	81
PITTSBURGH	17	80
SAINT LOUIS	18	79
LOS ANGELES	21	78
BALTIMORE	20	77

Ranked by percentage that say they would not like to live in each city. Percentage with no opinion not shown.

Among adults with family incomes below $30,000, four in ten (41%) say they would like to live in Seattle. Orlando, a city that isn't among the top 10 among wealthier Americans, also finished high on the list.

Seattle is a preferred city among college grads, as well as among those with no more than a high school diploma.

OTHER SURVEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- Americans are all over the map in their views about their ideal community type: 30% say they would most like to live in a small town, 25% in a suburb, 23% in a city and 21% in a rural area.
- By a ratio of three-to-one, Americans prefer living where the pace of life is slow, not fast. A similarly lopsided majority prefers a place where neighbors know each other well to one where neighbors don't generally know each other's business.
- By about two-to-one, they prefer to live in a hot-weather place over a cold-weather place.
- On the fast food front, a slight plurality would rather live in a place with more McDonalds (43%) than one with more Starbucks (35%).
- About seven-in-ten whites rate their current community as "excellent" or "very good"; only about half of Hispanics and four-in-ten blacks say the same. Rural and suburban residents rate their communities better than do residents of cities or small towns.
- People who live in a city – as well as people who want to live in a city – are more open than others to the idea of living with neighbors who are of different races. They are also more open to living among immigrants.
- Regardless of political party or ideology, more than six-in-10 Americans say they would prefer to live in a politically diverse community, although some differences do emerge.
- When it comes to community involvement, there is no difference among those who live in cities, suburbs, small towns or rural areas. About half of the residents in each place say they are involved, and half say they aren't.

An earlier report based on other questions from the same survey found that nearly

STG PRESENTS: THE WASHINGTON TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (WTIA) - 2009 ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS @ THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2009
5:30PM - 9:30PM

The annual Industry Achievement Awards are a time of celebration for the technology industry. They recognize the accomplishments of the best and brightest individuals and companies during the past year. This year there will be even more to celebrate, as we mark the WTIA organization's 25th Anniversary! This celebration is open to anyone who would like to honor the incredible accomplishments of Washington States technology industry.

For more information visit us online at:
http://www.theparamount.com

STG PRESENTS: TYLER PERRY'S THE MARRIAGE COUNSELOR @ THE PARAMOUNT THEATRE
FRIDAY - SUNDAY - MARCH 20 - 22, 2009

Tyler Perry, the award-winning playwright, director, actor, and creator of such hits plays as Diary of a Mad Black Woman, and Madea Goes to Jail (now a major motion picture) brings his latest phenomenon, The Marriage Counselor, to The Paramount Theatre for 4 performances only.

For more information visit us online at:
http://www.theparamount.com
Please note, Tyler Perry will not be appearing at these performances.

GREEN FESTIVAL
WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION AND TRADE CENTER

Green Festival is a 2 day event co-produced by Global Exchange and Green America committed to the movement towards a just and sustainable society, featuring over 300 socially and environmentally responsible enterprises, over 150 leading speakers, live music, and delicious organic food and drink.
Sat & Sun 11:00am-7:00pm 03/28 through 03/29 for more info: www.wsctc.com

MOISTURE FEST GRANDE VARIET
ACT THEATRE

This year the festival brings its all ages variete shows to ACT for the first time, with captivating acts of skill and daring - be it aerial, acrobatic, clowning, rope tricks, sketch comedy, juggling, dancing, singing, magic, puppetry, or astonishing bubbles. A live show band provides the underlying pulse that propels the show to create a fantastic family entertainment experience.
03/11/2009 through 03/15/2009
Presented at: ACT Theatre: (206) 292-7676
For more info: www.acttheatre.org