

bad advice

By Bill Riddle, The Laker/Lutz News Columnist

Q. We have neighbors that we're on friendly terms with. They've always been very nice, but apart from living next door, being married and having two kids, we don't have much in common with them. We exchange the usual pleasantries and even gifts over the holidays. They just invited us to come for dinner and look at pictures from their recent cruise to Alaska. It's a little more appealing than a shift at the morgue but not much. How do we decline invitations to socialize with them without jeopardizing our friendly neighbor status? —Making excuses

A. Have you considered moving? It's really not that much trouble, and it would be the simplest solution to your thorny problem. You could also hide from them. To hide in plain sight, dress up as homeless people. They get ignored all the time. Make signs for your spouse and kids. This is a great opportunity for you to be creative and have some fun. Skip the "Will Work For Food" or "Help Us Please, We're Starving." Our savvy society has become numb to such entreaties. I'd recommend something different. Eye catching. Innovative. Perhaps, "Feds Busted Our Meth Lab." Most people can relate to that problem. Possibly, "Lost My Wallet." Everyone has had that happen.

Another option is to tell them you've become forgetful lately. Feel free to accept their invitations with impunity. Schedule the dinner far in advance and then, every few days, call them to check on the date. After confirming different dates on their voicemail, they'll start to worry when you're actually planning on coming. The pressure of keeping their pictures handy, home clean, and food in house will start to take its toll. They'll start to question themselves. Every time the phone or doorbell rings, they'll cringe. You can even call to thank them for having you previously. When they tell you it isn't for three more weeks, laugh it off and act like you got them confused with your other neighbors.

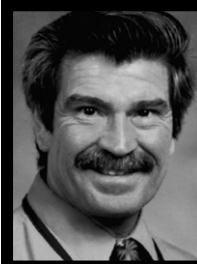
As a last resort, find a contagious disease to contract. While this may not seem like a great option at first, think of the alternative. With any luck, there's no cure and you can avoid them forever, even the holidays.



Bill Riddle lives in Odessa and gives great advice. He is an agent for Prudential Tropical Realty in Land O' Lakes and can be reached at (813) 792-9060. To send Bill a question (real or not) on something that is troubling you, e-mail him at badadvicecolumn@gmail.com. Copyright 2009 Bill Riddle.

Back to the Zixties

Blast from the past, Zephyrhills style



By Dr. Dr. Thayer
WZPH 96.7 FM, Zephyrhills

This week in ...

1967: The rock musical "Hair" debuted off-Broadway and later shifted to Broadway, lasting through 1,758 performances.

1967: The American League approved the Philadelphia Athletics move to Oakland. Additionally, new franchises were awarded to Kansas City (Royals) and Seattle (Pilots, who became the Milwaukee Brewers).

1969: The rock group Pink Floyd released the double-album, "Ummagumma."

Special days this week are ...

Feast Day of St. Luke. The physician and apostle painted portraits of Jesus and Mary.

Get Smart About Credit Day. Good advice in these economic times.

Alaska Day. Anniversary of the 1867 transfer of Alaska from Russia to the United States.

Biketoberfest. A four-day motorcycle event in Daytona Beach.

America's Real Independence Day in

Yorktown, Va. Celebrates a 1781 victory that assured American independence.

This week's birthdays ...

Rapper Eminem, 36; Dixie Chicks' Martie Seidel, 39; singer Marie Osmond, 49; Van Halen's Sammy Hagar, 61; actress Suzanne Somers, 62; actor Roger Moore, 81.

No. 1 hit records ...

1960: "Save the Last Dance For Me," Drifters.

1962: "Monster Mash," Bobby Boris Pickett.

1964: "Doo Wah Diddy," Manfred Mann.

1967: "To Sir With Love," Lulu.

Dr. Dr. Thayer owns a commercial-free radio station in Zephyrhills that primarily plays music from the 1960s. The good doctor gives us a look back to that era and more.

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HOMES FOR SALES

VERY DESIRABLE ASBEL CREEK in Land O Lakes. 4/2/2. 2083 SF. \$197,000. NO CDD Fees Here! Just low HOA. Neutral colors throughout. Kitchen has gorgeous granite countertops w/upgraded cherry cabinets; master bath has dual sinks w/garden tub! Separate shower built in 2006. This home is immaculate; perfect for first time buyer program. Hurry and close by Nov 30th to receive first time home buyer \$8,000 tax credit. Call Holly Walton, Dfc 813/949-3603; Cell 727-631-2068

NOT A SHORT SALE IN LAKE PADGETT ESTATES EAST: Large corner lot with plenty of shade trees and fenced backyard in this 2/2/2 1,600 SF home. Great place for the kids and pets to play. Clubhouse with pool, tennis courts, and running track. \$129,900. Call Cody Adams at 813-909-0712.

BEAUTIFUL MEADOW POINTE gated community! 2BR/1BA townhouse on scenic conservation w/ abundant natural light; spacious kitchen features plenty of wood cabinets, a large pantry, and island. Large upstairs master suite with garden tub and double sink vanity. Plenty of storage and great amenities! Short Sale. \$79,000. Call Billie Blanchard today 813-446-5144.

SHORT SALE means a great price for an elegant home in a gated community if you can wait 4 months to close! 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths plus a bonus room and a caged pool! This home is close to Sanders Elementary in Land O' Lakes, FL! Call Faith Garcia 813-503-6610 Ext. 106

THE GROVES 2/2+2 Courtyard Home on the golf course with golf cart garage. Open and spacious tiled living area, all appliances stay. Screened lanai in adult community. NOT A SHORT SALE. Contact Clint Giesler 813-326-1936 or Carol Winship 813-469-1554.

BEAUTIFUL WATERFRONT HOME in Lake Padgett Estates. 3/3/2 + office w/pool, hot tub, dock & large screened lanai. Kitchen has updated granite countertops, wood cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. Ceramic tile throughout, carpet in bedrooms. This home is exactly what you have been looking for \$379,900. Call Jacky Burnette at 813-732-1252.

GRAND OAKS 3/3 pool home and NOT a short sale. Over 2,100 SF on nice conservation lot. Home has formal living and dining area with great room kitchen combo. Priced to sell at \$179,000. Recent appraisal for \$200k. For more information and to see this home please call Steven Johnston at 813-431-3525.

COTTAGE ON THE LAKE! Beautiful .85 lakefront lot with one bedroom, one bath cottage and concrete block single car garage. Walking distance to Sanders Elementary. Call Faith Garcia at 813-503-6610.

VALENCIA GARDENS COMMUNITY popular Ashford II Model from Ryland Homes. Walking distance to County Park, library, elementary school. Extra large lot. 5BDs, 3BAs, 3CAR 2790 SF. Needs TLC. Price \$199,900. Call Martha Henry 813-928-9339.

GOLF, TENNIS, SHUFFLEBOARD, HEATED POOL FOR \$119,900! This is a two-bedroom, two-bath home with a glass enclosed Florida room and a single car garage with a bump-out in a community filled with fun! Move in today and start enjoying the good life. Call Faith Garcia for an appointment 813-503-6610.

GREAT PROPERTY FOR THE USF COLLEGE AREA: Minutes from everything. 2/2 priced to sell at \$90,000. Located at 6002 Laketree Lane, Tampa, Unit E. For an appointment call Martha Henry at 813-928-2939.

PLANTATION PALMS SHORT SALE: Bank says bring offer. Gorgeous home backs to golf course and pond. This 5/3/3, 2,646 SF home needs some TLC. Beautiful oversized rock waterfall pool. Call Cody Adams at 813-909-0712.

ROMANTIC FIREPLACE in the living room with a view of the Golf Courses' 7th Fairway. The civic center is packed with fun activities including card games, woodcarving, shuffleboard, heated pool, tennis courts, and bocce courts! \$110,000. Call Faith Garcia today 813-503-6610.

IN CARROLLWOOD!!! Never 4/2/1 Condo at an incredible price. Only \$190,000. Located at 4008 Majesty Palm Court. For an appointment call Martha Henry at 813-928-2939.

GRAND HAMPTON MERCEDES 4/3/3 gorgeous 3,425 SF home is located in a private guard gated community in New Tampa. Private suite upstairs with bedroom and bath and a balcony overlooking the pool and spa. Clubhouse boasts a multi-use aquatic center that includes a competition and resort-style swimming pool and waterslide, four lighted tennis

courts, children's playground, and golf putting course. Call Cody Adams at 813-909-0712.

BRING YOUR HORSES to this beautiful 5/3/2 pool home on 2.5 acres with 3 stall barn and tack room. Property is fenced and cross fenced. Updated kitchen, formal living and dining room, fireplace in the large family room. Florida room opens up to pool area with spa. This is a must see in one of Pasco County's most desirable neighborhoods of Pasco Trails. For more information please contact Steven Johnston at 813-431-3525.

HORSE COUNTRY ON 10 ACRES IN WESLEY CHAPEL: This 3/2/2 home comes with pool and detached 45x40 steel insulated workshop/garage with full bath. Hay barn and motor home garage. Asking \$599,000. Call Cody Adams at 813-909-0712.

LAKE PADGETT EAST: On cul-de-sac, beautiful 3/2/2 home on a large lot. Near clubhouse, rec. center. Pool, tennis courts & other amenities. No CDD & very low HOA. Motivated sellers! Call Angie Rivera 813-995-0101.

LAKE PADGETT SOUTH 3/3/2 corner lot home with lots of tile. Close to Collier Pkwy. Won't last long! \$144,900. Call Cody Adams for viewing at 813-909-0712.

DRASTICALLY REDUCED SHORT SALE IN STAGECOACH VILLAGE: Spacious 3/2/2 single family home with formal living/dining rooms, plus an open family room off the kitchen is a must see. Call Angie Rivera 813-995-0101.

COMMERCIAL/VACANT PROPERTY

LOCATION! LOCATION! LOCATION! 1.72+ Commercial acres \$540,000 off Land O Lakes Blvd; Zoned C3-commercial/light manufacturing district; close to Interstate 75, State Rd 52, State Rd 54 and the Suncoast Parkway. THIS IS THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME!! Call Holly Walton, Dfc 813/949-3603; Cell 727-631-2068

WIMAUMA ACREAGE in an area of custom built homes. This is a short sale, so it may take four months to close, but the savings make it worth the wait! More than 8 acres to build your dream home in the country yet close to all the services of a city! Call Faith Garcia 813-503-6610 Ext. 106 for directions!

FANTASTIC 5,000 SF MULTI USE COMMERCIAL BUILDING ZONED C2 located in the center of Land O' Lakes business growth. Great multi use commercial building. Asking \$575,000 for this wonderful investment property that won't last long! Call Holly Walton 727-631-2068.

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME ON THIS 4.64 ACRE SCENIC PASTURE SITE in South Hernando County. \$69,000. Call Arnold Godwin 813-690-7843.

26 ACRES OF PASTURE IN DARBY: Gorgeous hillside property with lots of trees. 4 miles off I-75. Contact Arnold Godwin 813-690-7843.

10+ ACRES OF WORKING GROVE: Well kept grove with mixed varieties. High and dry with full irrigation system & green belt exemption adjacent to Conneron \$299,000. To see call Arnold Godwin 813-690-7843.

BEAUTIFUL DOUBLE LOT in Central Pasco to build that new home. Almost ? acre. \$29,000. Call Craig Windholz 813-928-4904.

SOUTH OF HERNANDO/PASCO COUNTY LINE ROAD: Nice lot zoned for mobile or house. Just over 1/2 acre; requires well and septic. Owner says sell it! \$49,900. Call Martha Henry at 813-928-2939.

WOOD HAVEN FARMS IN SPRING HILL: Five wooded acres that can be used for single family home, mobile home, nursery, etc. near Suncoast Parkway. Motivated seller, all offers will be presented. Call Angie Rivera 813-995-0101.

LAKE LOT ON SKI LAKE in gated community. One acre lake frontage. County sewer. Owner says bring me an offer. This one won't last at \$249,000. Call Cody Adams at 813-909-0712.

3 LOTS JUST SHY OF .51 ACRES: Well and septic, electric. Mobile home use. Call Maurice Rodriguez at 813-748-2389.

RENTALS

GREAT RETAIL SPACE ON US 41 in the heart of Land O' Lakes business center. Zoned C2. Two suites available: 1,000 SF for \$1,600 mo. and 1,700 SF for \$1,800 mo. Contact Holly Walton at 727-631-2068.

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