

Autumn 2010

Brought to you by
Kate Gladchun
 Max Broock Birmingham
 248-891-1033 (cell)
 . . . *Just Call Kate.* . . .

The Resource

Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes

Serves 8
 8 large potatoes
 1-8oz package of cream cheese
 1/4 cup sour cream
 Salt to taste
 Pepper to taste
 Butter
 Paprika

Boil potatoes in salted water until tender. Drain and mash. Add cream cheese, sour cream, salt and pepper, mixing well. Put into a greased 2-quart casserole or baking dish. Top with squares of butter. Cover potatoes.

These may be stored in the frig for several days. Potatoes should be at room temperature before baking. Before serving, sprinkle with paprika and bake uncovered in a 350 degree oven for 30-35 minutes or until heated thoroughly.



I've used this recipe for several years. It's a great time (and oven) saver on Thanksgiving Day! From the kitchen of MaryEllen Lyngaas

Making Plans For the Holidays?

Now is a good time to start planning for the holidays. The days all blur together and the next thing you know, it's all over. Here are a few fun ideas to think about:

- Cut Down a Christmas Tree.** Mutch's Hidden Pines is a local Christmas tree farm where you can cut down your own tree, decorate your own wreath or shop in the Christmas store. It's about a 32-mile drive to Lapeer from the Bham/Blmfld area, but you'll feel like you're up north. Check out the website at www.mutchshiddenpines.com for hours.
- Frankenmuth.** While you're at it, why not plan an old-fashioned day trip to Frankenmuth and have a family style chicken dinner at **Zhendrs** and then shop all the Christmas boutiques afterward? Don't forget Bronners!!!
- Prepare your cookie dough ahead of time; chill it and have it ready for a snowy afternoon. Here's a great website for decorating cookies: <http://www.christmas-cookies.com/bakingtips/decorating.php>
- Check out **Homegoods**. These days, they seem to have a lot of new and interesting inventory, especially geared toward

the holidays. Also **Neiman Marcus Last Call** is having continuous sales like many of the other stores at **Great Lakes Crossing**.

- First United Methodist Church** has several Christmas themed and holiday themed activities taking place.
- By the way, did you know that the **First United Methodist Church** has a huge Community Center at the back end of their building, available for use by *anyone* who lives the community? They have an auditorium, a walking track, exercise and class rooms along with a kitchen and lounging area. You don't have to be a parishioner to partake in their classes and the walking track is a great way to get daily exercise when the weather is cold and icy. Use it as a meeting place too! Their website is www.fumcbirmingham.org/cfc
- Why not organize a **luminaria** display in your neighborhood for Christmas Eve? It's such a beautiful sight and many neighborhoods already do it.

According to a recent **US News and World Report**: Birmingham, Michigan was listed as one of the "Best Places to Retire." So if you live in Birmingham, GREAT!

Data Digest — Birmingham/Bloomfield Hills/Bloomfield Twp

The table below shows the breakdown of properties sold in the Birmingham and Bloomfield areas for 2010. The data shows: Price Range, Number of Homes Sold, Average Cost per Square Foot and Average Total Square Footage.

Price Range (In \$1,000's)	\$10-100	\$ 101- 200	\$ 201- 300	\$ 301- 400	\$ 401- 500	\$ 501- 600	\$ 601- 700	\$ 701- 800	\$ 801 - 900	\$ 901 - 1000	\$ 1000 And Up	Short Sale or 3 rd Party Approval	Fore- clo sure
# Sold	50	215	145	117	81	54	31	183	20	13	43	150	185
Avg \$/Sq Ft	\$73	\$93	\$111	\$126	\$142	\$160	\$172	\$183	\$181	\$205	\$231	\$112	\$94
Avg Sq Ft	1184	1788	2372	2893	3340	3548	3862	4270	5073	5158	7079	2742	2811

Save Money with Your Baldwin Library Card!

Local Birmingham businesses have teamed up with Baldwin Public Library (BPL) to offer library members discounts and special offers.

Through January 2nd, 2011 simply show your BPL card to the following retailers for special discounts. Get the complete list online at www.baldwinlib.org/checkitout, but here are just a few:

Barbara's Paper Bag
 Christian Science Reading Room
 Clavenna Vision Institute
 Cristions Fine Linens & Down
 The Community House
 Halina Fuchs
 HoneyBaked Ham (Beverly Hills location)
 The Knitting Room
 La Belle Provence
 Lido Gallery and Gifts
 Margot European Day Spa
 Masri Clinic for Laser Cosmetic Surgery
 Max and Erma's (Birmingham)
 Oliver's Trendz
 Premier Pet Supply
 Root and Sprout
 Schakolad of Birmingham
 Stacey Leuliette Gracious Living
 Suhm-thing
 The Barber Pole
 Tiffany Florist (Birmingham)
 Yoga Shelter



This newsletter is brought to you by:
Kate Gladchun
 248-891-1033
Kate@gladchun.net



Joslin Crowe, Assistant
joslincrowe@gmail.com

Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not a coincidence.

~ Erma Bombeck

Fun and Helpful Web Sites

I'm always on the look-out for fun or helpful websites. Anything that cuts down on my time in an attempt to find good information, helpful research, or qualified references is always bookmarked on my computer. Here are some of my favorites:

Kim Komando - You can listen to her on Saturday afternoons on 800 AM CKLW or you can go to www.Komando.com to learn from the "digital goddess" of all things computer and digitally related. Receive daily email updates with good computer tips and "website of the day".

Hollingate.com: great fabric resource...very detailed site for viewing and buying fabrics. Great prices too!

Hungry-girl.com - better than Weight Watchers website because they tout all different programs, not just their own. They also send out daily emails with great recipes, new healthy foods on the market and substitute menus for famous restaurant foods. There's also a great cookbook "200 Recipes Under 200 Calories". Check it out.

RueLaLa.com - Fashion finds and super sales by special invitation only - email me at kate@gladchun.net and I will "invite" you!

Quikbook.com - an *unadvertised* site for hotel reservations. I have used it and saved a lot of money on good hotels all over the country.

VRBO.com - "Vacation Rental By Owner" A terrific website to find a vacation home nearby and internationally.

Sparkrecipes.com - Browse delicious, healthy recipes submitted by 8 million members, try the resident chef's original dishes and menu makeovers, and share your own favorite foods. Plus, a recipe calculator gives you the calories, fat, and nutrition info.

Do YOU have any favorites? Please send them along to kate@gladchun.net.

Village Club

Did you know that the Village Club holds many informative classes year-round? AND, as a community service, these classes are open to the public. A complete list of fall classes can be seen on The Village Club website, www.thevillageclub.org. A brochure containing all pertinent info is also available from the Village Club. Classes focus on travel, history, art, creative writing, bridge, Mah Jongg, fitness, exercise, dance and computers. Experts in the culinary and interior design fields will offer classes to prepare for the upcoming holidays.

The Village Club, founded in 1956, is comprised of over 1000 women who are actively involved in the community. The Village Club is located at 190 East Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills. The Club always invites the area residents to attend their many popular classes offered by experts in their field as a service to the community. **Phone number: 248-644-3450.**

We hope you enjoyed the latest issue of "The Resource". Can we send this new quarterly newsletter to you by email? It saves trees and postage. It will be filled with informative community information, good deals, recipes and tid-bits of local real estate news. Just drop me an email and you will be added to our subscriber list. You will be able to unsubscribe at any time. Thanks! kate@gladchun.net

Something to Think About. . . .

Since mid-summer, I have had weekly inquiries that might surprise you. "For what?", you might ask. Agents in my office have been asking if I have any "pocket listings." These are properties, usually owned by personal friends who don't want to officially list their homes on the market, that might be considered for sale eventually, but could also be shown now "to the right buyer", They ask me to "keep my house in mind" if I have an interested buyer in the area. This indicates a shortage of eligible homes in the real estate inventory.

"What area?" you now might ask:

- Bloomfield Village
- Quarton Lake
- Waterfront: Pine Lake/Orchard Lake/Walnut Lake
- Downtown Birmingham

There is a strong demand in our area. So, if you know someone who might have an interest selling their property, I am able to give them a no cost Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) to give them an idea of the value of their home. You may have an opportunity you didn't realize. We put a very nice deal together in Bloomfield Village with an out-of-town buyer and the seller of a home that wasn't even on the market. Result: Happy Seller, Happy Buyer!

Your home may be that "perfect home" that a family, couple or individual desires. . . .

I am happy to meet with you or work with you via email to get you the information you desire. I may be reached at 248-891-1033 or kate@gladchun.net.