March 2022

The Ides of March

You may have heard the phrase "beware the Ides of March," but what is an Ides and what's there to fear?

The Ides is actually a day that comes about every month, not just in March-according to the ancient Roman calendar, at least. The Romans tracked time much differently than we do now, with months divided into groupings of days counted before certain named days: the Kalends at the beginning of the month, the Ides at the middle, and the Nones between them. In a 31-day month such as March, the Kalends was day 1, with days 2-6 being counted as simply "before the

Nones." The Nones fell on day 7, with days 8-14 "before the Ides" and the 15th as the Ides. Afterward the days were counted as "before the Kalends" of the next month. In shorter months these days were shifted accordingly.

You have probably heard of the Ides of March, however, because it is the day Roman statesman Julius Caesar was assassinated. The immortal words "Beware the Ides of March" are uttered in William Shakespeare's Julius Caesar to the leader by a fortune-teller. As such, it is now a phrase to denote doom and gloom. Other bad things have happened on March 15, of course, but there's probably no reason to beware March's Ides more than the Ides of any other month.

Traditional Irish Soda Bread

- 2.5 C whole wheat flour
- 1.25 C bread flour
- 3 T granulated sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 2/3 C currants or raisins
- 4 T butter, cold cut into 8 pieces
- 1-1/3 C buttermilk
- 1 large egg
- 2 T butter, melted

Method:

Preheat oven to 400°F.

Whisk together the flours, sugar, baking soda, salt, and currants or raisins.

Rub the cold butter into the mixture until it's evenly distributed and no large chunks remain.

Whisk together the buttermilk and egg then pour this into the dry ingredients and mix to combine. The dough will be stiff and crumbly.

Knead the dough a couple of times to make sure it's holding together then shape into a ball. Flatten slightly and place the loaf in your pan. Use a sharp knife and cut a 1/2"- deep cross in the loaf.

Bake for about 45 - 55 minutes until golden brown and a toothpick in the center comes out clean. Remove from the oven and brush the top with melted butter.







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FJR & ASSOCIATES UPDATE

Homeownership: Your Best Hedge Against Inflation

Buying a home is the most expensive and important financial transaction most people will ever make. It's also the strongest tool and best hedge they will have in their portfolio to fight inflation. While money invested in a stock may go down, historically, your home appreciates in value over the long-term. And as you build equity in your home, you increase your overall net worth.

Benefits of Owning your Own Home:

A fixed-rate mortgage offers a predictable monthly payment, even with the changes in tax and insurance costs.

The interest you pay on your mortgage, insurance premiums and property taxes may be deductible. Consult your tax advisor for more information.

You can make any changes and renovations you desire, without asking for your landlord's permission.

When you have a HELOC (home equity line of credit), you can tap into it for home improvements, renovations or other needs.

Local Activities and Events

- Now May 3: LA Sanitation Non-Perishable Food Drive
- Now March 31: Oscars Gallery Tours at the Academy Museum
- Now June: SoFi Stadium Tours
- March 12: Los Angeles Coliseum Historic Tours
- March 16: Making Monsters with Mary Doodles at the Getty Villa
- March 19: FJR & Associates Home Seller Education Event at Monty's Prime Steaks Seafood
- March 23: Museum Free-for-All
 Event 40 LA museums open to all for free
- March 24: Bowls of Hope
 Community Event Westlake Village

Oh by the way... We're never too busy for your referrals



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Home Renovations

Does your home suit your needs? One in four people say they outgrew their home after two years. When life's circumstances change, whether it is family or work-related, it may be time to make a change in the home as well.



Why We Need to Renovate

Family milestones

(marriage, newborns, kids growing up)

Loved ones move in

(aging parents or returning young adults)

House functionality

(damaged roof, no laundry room, outdated kitchen)

- Need room for a home office
- Space crunch

(too few bathrooms, not enough storage)

Options to Consider

- Reconfigure how you currently use your rooms.
- Build a new room.
- Build an accessory dwelling unit (ADU).
- A major renovation such as adding a second story.
- Be realistic about what you can afford to tackle.



Renovations can be time-consuming and expensive. Carefully vet your contractor so that you don't end up with unexpected costs and aggravation. Please reach out if you need a referral to a great service professional.

What Will It Cost?

Prices will vary depending on scope of project and location.

Home Additions (one room) \$22,000 to \$82,000

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) \$60,000 to \$225,000

Kitchen Remodel \$15,000 to \$65,000

Basement Remodel \$12,000 to \$34,000

Second-story Addition \$150,000 to \$200,000



\$49,000 with an average ROI of

DID YOU KNOW, THE #2 REASON PEOPLE MOVE IS BECAUSE THEY NEED A BIGGER SPACE?

If you or someone you know is considering a move, feel free to contact me with any questions. I'm here to offer clear, concise information you can trust. I also belong to a network of top real estate professionals, and I can connect you to one wherever you're looking to go.