

# *El Dorado Realty, Inc.*

## NEIGHBORHOOD VOICE

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“Celebrating over 35 years of service”

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FROM THE DESK OF

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I am sorry if I seem to be making a lot of excuses for the untimely delivery of this newsletter. My wife and I had just returned from our annual Blues Cruise and I was starting to put together material for the newsletter, when I came down with blood infection and had to go into the hospital. While I was there, they were able to introduce a strain of Ecoli virus, which took massive doses of multiple antibiotics to control. I guess because of my age, I don't bounce back quit as fast anymore. Well, I am back in business, and just in time to get my listing on Karen Ave. into escrow, if all goes well it will close in mid December. The original 2-bedroom home I had listed on

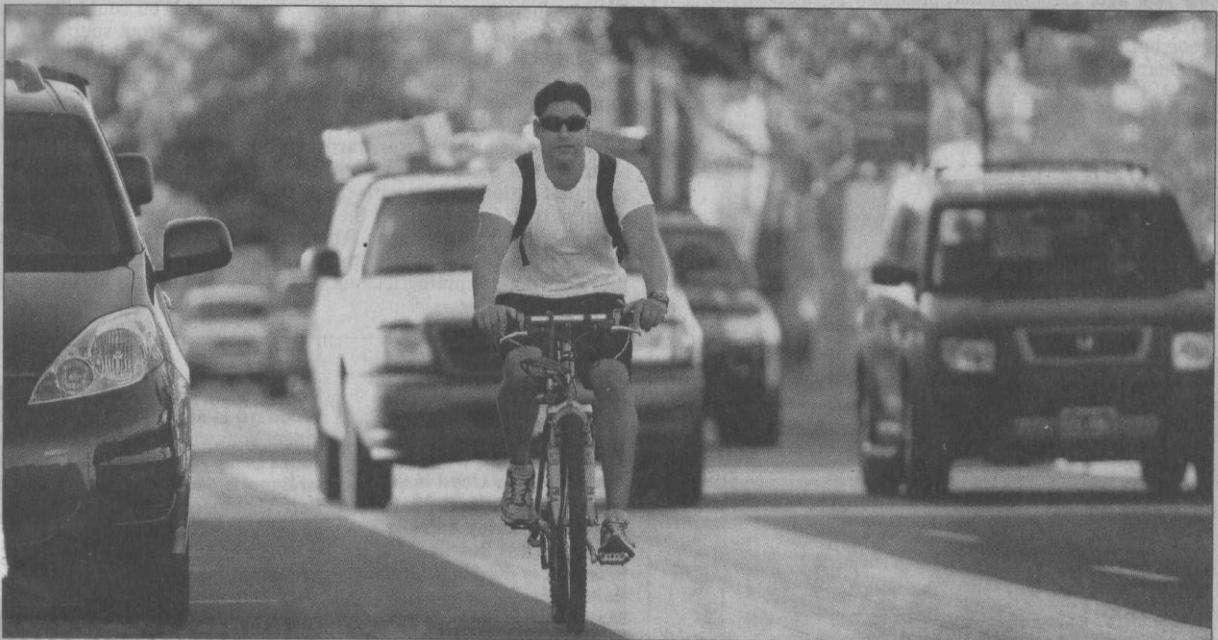
Kallin closed escrow recently. Neither property sold for what I had expected, but the market seems to have slowed early this year. Hopefully this will pick up after the first of the new year. In the meantime, Buyers are getting some real deals. While the prices for these recent sales weren't what I had been working for, they did sell in the middle range of comparables. Essentially, prices are holding and I hope that after the first of the year and into Spring of 2011, we will see some increase in our homes prices.

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I witnessed an incident, recently right out front of our home on Studebaker Rd. I heard some loud voices out front of the house around mid day and went out to see the cause. It was a neighbor on bicycle having a heated argument with the local UPS Driver. It seems the UPS Driver had parked in the bicycle lane and our neighbor took issue with his blocking the lane. It appeared that the incident was escalating, so I called the police. Wow, what service, within 5-minutes two police cars from our east division were on the scene. The officers had no problem settling the matter, explaining that the letter of the law does prohibit parking in the bicycle lane, but delivery services

like UPS and FedEx are given some leeway, in that they are usually only stopped for a few minutes and not allowing them to temporarily stop in the lane would require drivers to backtrack down the access roads, turn around on these narrow streets to get back on the main street. Both parties parted amiably and I was able to thank the officers for their rapid response. This was a good example of the type service we get by simply calling 911 when a problem occurs in the neighborhood.

Probably as important is the issue between bicycle riders and auto traffic in our City. The City is making a great effort to make Long Beach a bicycle friendly City and I think it is a great idea. I look forward to my wife and I getting new bikes in the near future and riding once more, and the safer it gets the more people will use this type transportation. Good for ones individual health as well as the environment as a whole. It is extremely important to know and follow the rules of the road, for that reason I have reprinted an article printed in the Press Telegram recently, which pointed out a few laws that we some residents might not be aware of. Please see the article on the next page. Also, I think it is important for drivers of automobiles, cyclists, and pedestrians to **try harder to be courteous & respectful to all.**



Brittany Murray Staff Photographer

A bicyclist uses a Belmont Shore "sharrow" lane, which motorists and cyclists share as part of an effort to reduce cycling dangers.

# Think you know your bike rules?

## Test yourself

1. What bike lights are required after dark?

- A. A red taillight only
- B. Christmas lights
- C. Both a white headlight and rear red tail light
- D. A white headlight

2. Can I ride a bike on the sidewalk in a business district?

- A. Yes, if you avoid hitting any pedestrians
- B. Yes, if you are 18 years or younger
- C. No, you should walk your bike on the sidewalk in a business district
- D. No, only unicycles are allowed on sidewalks

3. Who can use a bike boulevard?

- A. Only adult cyclists
- B. Only the residents of that street
- C. Children under adult supervision
- D. All motorists and cyclists share this type of street

4. Bike helmets are required to be used:

- A. After dark
- B. Riding faster than 10 miles per hour
- C. For riders under 18 years old
- D. Not required — only used as a safety precaution

5. When passing cyclists, motorists should:

- A. Honk their horns repeatedly until cyclists get out of the way
- B. Change lanes completely just as with any other slower-moving vehicle
- C. Switch the radio channel to easy listening and chill out

6. A "sharrow" means:

- A. Motorists and cyclists share the marked sharrow lane
- B. Is another type of bike lane where only cyclists are allowed
- C. A "sharrow" is a migrating water fowl from Canada

7. Listening to earphones in both ears, texting or talking on your hand-held cell are legally allowed:

- A. In discos and other festive locations
- B. Are not legal while bicycling or driving
- C. Are legal on bike paths and some highways

8. When riding a bike in the roadway, you should always:

- A. Ride your bike opposite the direction of traffic so you can see what's coming
- B. Ride your bike in the same direction as traffic, except on a one-way street
- C. Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- D. Only on the sidewalk

9. True or false? Motorists are legally allowed to double park in bike lanes.

10. True or false? Bicycles are considered vehicles in the California Vehicle Code and are required to follow the rules of the road.

Turn to **A5** for the correct answers, and tips for motorists and bicyclists to stay safe while sharing the road.

**More inside:** Becoming a bike-friendly city is a learning experience for Long Beach. **A5**

**1. What bike lights are required after dark?**

- A. A red tail-light only.
- B. Christmas lights.
- C. A white headlight and rear red reflector.
- D. A white headlight.

*C. A white headlight and rear red reflector. Bike lights improve your sight distance for safety, and also make cyclists more visible to people driving cars. California Vehicle Code (CVC) 21201*

**2. Can I ride a bike on the sidewalk in a business district?**

- A. Yes, if you avoid hitting any pedestrians
- B. Yes, if you are 18 years or younger
- C. No, you should walk your bike on the sidewalk in a business district
- D. No, only unicycles are allowed on sidewalks.

*C. No one may ride a bike on the sidewalk in a business district in Long beach. If you are in a business district, you should walk your bike on the sidewalk. Long Beach Municipal Code (LBMC) 10.48.070*

**3. Who can use a bike boulevard?**

- A. Only adult cyclists.
- B. Only the residents of that street.
- C. Children under adult supervision.
- D. All motorists and cyclists share this type of street.

*D. All motorists and cyclists share this type of street. Bike boulevards are gaining popularity as safe routes to school for children, and traffic calming measures.*

**4. Bike helmets are required to be used:**

- A. After dark.
- B. Riding over 10 miles per hour.
- C. For riders under 18 years old.
- D. Not required unless there are helmet hair issues.

*C. For riders under 18 years old. While not mandatory for adults, bike helmets are highly recommended. CVC 21212*

**5. When passing cyclists a motorist should:**

- A. Honk their horn repeatedly until the cyclist gets out of the way.
- B. Change lanes completely just as you would any other slower moving vehicle.
- C. Switch the radio channel to easy listening and chill out.

*B. For safety and courtesy, change lanes completely just as you would for any other slower moving vehicle. It is commonly recommended that motorists give cyclists at least 3-feet when passing.*

**6. A "sharrow" means:**

- A. Motorists and cyclists share the marked sharrow lane.
- B. Is another type of bike lane where only cyclists are allowed.
- C. A "sharrow" is a migrating water fowl from Canada.

*A. Motorists and cyclist share the marked sharrow lane. The purpose is to reduce the chance of bicyclists running into opening doors of parked cars and to alert*

*all road users where bicyclists ride.*

**7. Listening to earphones in both ears, texting or talking on your handheld cell are legally allowed:**

- A. In discos and other festive locations.
- B. Are not legal while bicycling or driving.
- C. Are legal on bike paths and some highways.

*B. Are not legal while bicycling or driving. Distracted driving of all vehicles is dangerous. CVC 27400*

**8. When riding a bike in the roadway, you should always:**

- A. Ride your bike opposite the direction of traffic so you can see what's coming
- B. Ride your bike in the same direction as traffic, except on a one-way street
- C. Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- D. Only on the sidewalk

*C. Bicyclists should always travel in the same direction as traffic. CVC 21650*

**9. True or false? Motorists are legally allowed to double park in bike lanes.**

*False. CVC 21211*

**10. True or false? Bicycles are considered vehicles in the California Vehicle Code (CVC) and are required to follow the rules of the road.**

*True*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY HANAKAH.**



4525 E Ferro St., Long Beach. 3-bedroom, 2-bath  
Charmingly remodeled and enlarged pool home in  
Artcraft Manor. Modern Kitchen with beautiful granite  
counters, GE Profile range, built-in microwave &  
dishwasher. Central air & heat. 1,306 sq. ft. on a 6,000  
sq. ft. lot.  
Asking \$530,000



2114 Petaluma Ave. Long Beach. 3-Bedroom, 2-Bath  
Desireable Los Altos neighborhood. Totally upgraded  
throughout, with all new Kitchen featuring granite  
counters with custom cabinetry. Professionally  
landscaped. 1,234 sq.ft. on 5.600 sq.ft. lot.

Asking \$559,999



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