

I hope you will enjoy my new Tucson Homeowner publication. Whether you like clipping the event calendar, reading the articles on homes, pursuing my featured listings, or trying new recipes, this publication has it all. In future issues, I plan to provide Market Updates, Key Market Indicator Reports and coupons! I love to stay in touch with my clients and this is another way for me to say "Hello". Thank you for trusting me with your referrals and for allowing me to be your Tucson Realtor.



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Brenda O'Brien consistently ranks among the top Realtors in Tucson, Arizona and the nation. Brenda provides that dynamic balance of incredible service and motivation with warmth, energy and understanding of your individual needs. Her years of experience as a Realtor are reflected in her success and passion for her work. Her personal energy and professional skills make her one of the best in her field. Nothing makes her happier than to see her client's total satisfaction with the sale or purchase of their home.

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If your home is currently listed, this is not a solicitation for that listing.

## FEATURED LISTINGS



### Gated Honey Bee Canyon Estates

Custom 4 bedroom/3.5 bath hacienda with incredible Catalina and Tortolita Mountain views, pool/spa and 3-car garage.  
**\$1,449,000**



### Oro Valley Country Club Estates

On the 6th fairway with Catalina Mountain views. Southwest contemporary home, 4 bedroom/3 bath split floor plan, gourmet kitchen, 3-car garage.  
**\$997,500**



### Custom Home on 3.3 Acres

Privacy and views from this 4 bedroom/3.5 bath home. 3-car garage plus 2 bedroom/1 bath guest house.  
**\$899,000**



### Wilderness Estates III

Stunning contemporary with commanding breathtaking mountain and Oro Valley views situated high in La Reserve. 4 bedroom/3 bath with den/guest suite.  
**\$859,700**

**Take the virtual tours at [www.BrendaSellsTucson.com](http://www.BrendaSellsTucson.com)**

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# TUCSON HOMEOWNER

it's monsoon season

**Facts And Figures About Lightning**

sunblock for your home

**Residential Window Films**



impress your dinner guests  
**NoRTH's Roasted Salmon**

# EVENT CALENDAR

July 2007

## **Blues Brunch and Warren Hill**

**Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, July 1st  
520.615.5496 or [www.tucsonjazz.org](http://www.tucsonjazz.org)**

Join fellow jazz lovers every Sunday at the Canyon Cafe for a fabulous "Blues, Brews and BBQ" brunch. Enjoy micro-brewery beers and never-ending mimosas while listening to music from Tucson's finest blues musicians. A special concert by Warren Hill is slated as a separate event on the 1st. Make it a full day of jazzy bliss by attending both events!

## **Oro Valley / Wells Fargo Independence Day Celebration**

**Cañada del Oro Riverfront Park, July 4th  
520.797.3959 or [www.govac.org](http://www.govac.org)**

Enjoy a patriotic musical program presented by the Tucson Symphony Orchestra with Musical Director and Conductor, George Hanson. The evening's highlight will be a stunning fireworks display synchronized to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture. The event includes many children's activities including a puppet show and ring & toss games.

## **Public Tour**

**Fox Tucson Theatre, July 10th  
520.624.1515 or [www.foxtucsontheatre.org](http://www.foxtucsontheatre.org)**

Come take a tour of Tucson's very own movie palace which saw its heyday between 1930 and 1945. Designed as a dual vaudeville/movie house, the Fox featured a stage, full fly-loft and dressing rooms beneath the stage. It has been designated as a nationally significant building on the National Register of Historic Places. After sitting vacant for over 30 years, the Fox was purchased by the non-profit Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation in 2000 and underwent a six-year, \$13 million rehabilitation and restoration.

## **Ribs, Ribs and More Ribs!**

**Culinary Concepts Cooking School, July 14th  
520.321.0968 or [www.culinaryconcepts.net](http://www.culinaryconcepts.net)**

Whether you are already a gourmand or need a lesson in boiling water, you will love the cooking classes at this school. Just in time for those summer BBQ events, learn the art of preparing ribs. Discover the secrets to making various rubs, sauces and appropriate side dishes for a "knock their socks off" meal!

## **Archaeology Summer Camp for Adults**

**Arizona State Museum, July 23rd-27th  
520.621.6302 or [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)**

No bones about it - this summer camp is a unique experience! For the first time, ASM bioarchaeologists Lane Beck and John McClelland team up with ASM zooarchaeologist Barnet Pavao-Zuckerman to offer you a week-long course on human and animal bone identification. Experience first-hand how and what these bone experts learn through hands-on activities, lectures, tours and more.

## **Evening at the Ocean**

**Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, July 28th  
520.883.1380 or [www.desertmuseum.org](http://www.desertmuseum.org)**

Join the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and the Sonoran Sea Aquarium to learn about the Seafood Watch program and taste what Tucson has to offer with sustainable seafood cooking demonstrations by local area chefs and restaurants. There will be plenty of ocean-related activities for the kids too. It's a great way to spend a warm summer evening!

**YOUR HOME**



# From Arizona's Intense Sun

If there's one thing Arizonans can agree upon, it's the fact that we have cornered the nation's market on sunshine! In fact, protecting ourselves from the harsh summer sun has become almost an obsession. We busy ourselves with sunblock, sun visors, sun screens, sun shades and sunglasses. Water cooler talk turns to UVA, UVB, and SPF. We discuss sun spots, age spots, hot spots and cold spots! But with all the care taken to protect ourselves from the sun, how much thought have you given to adding a layer of "sunblock" to your home?

If you've lived in Arizona for at least one summer, you no doubt drive a car that has tinted windows. Reserved for limousines and "cars of questionable character" in some parts of the country, auto tint is the absolute norm here in the Tucson area. So it only makes sense to consider protecting your home in the same fashion.

The benefits of residential window tinting are many. Perhaps most important is the comfort factor. Today's residential window films can reduce up to 99% of the sun's ultraviolet rays and up to 78% of the solar heat that would otherwise travel right through your windows. That translates into cooler interiors and more comfortable living. Do you have a room in your home in which you suffer from annoying glare at any given time of the day? Turn that room into your favorite room in the house with the sun-cutting features of window films.

As you can imagine, residential window films can substantially reduce your cooling and heating bills. Blocking that hot sun from ever penetrating the windows gives you a tremendous head start that blinds and curtains can't compete with. Plus, in winter, the window films act as insulation for maximum heat retention.

Window films can offer your home that extra touch of elegance and privacy. They can give your home's exterior a uniform appearance and lend a rich and warm look to your interiors as well. If you desire a minimalist décor, window films can help you avoid the need for heavy window coverings.

With 99% of the UV rays blocked, you'll be protecting your home's expensive interiors. Window coverings, furnishings, carpeting and wood flooring can take a real beating from the sun. Don't wait until your belongings are ruined before you take the extra step in protecting them.

Lastly, installing window films can provide an extra element of safety to your home. The film on the windows will provide fragment retention by holding the glass together during accidental breakages, destructive weather, vandalism or burglaries.

One of the biggest misconceptions about window films is that they interfere with the home's views or create an unwanted darkness in your rooms. Those were some problems of the past, but today's technology brings us films with better heat rejection, low reflectivity and they're almost invisible from the inside. In fact, there are films on the market now that have none of those undesirable dark or shiny characteristics and do not contain any metal which could have the capacity to interfere with cellular phones or other wireless devices.

Another worry that homeowners have is how well the films will hold up. Today's films should not peel or scratch. In fact, many are developed with specialized scratch-resistant coatings that were not available years ago. Bubbling should not be an issue unless the films are installed improperly. Normal cleaning of the windows is also allowable.

For more information on protecting your home with residential window films, visit [www.3M.com/prestige](http://www.3M.com/prestige).

Depending on whom you ask, summer thunderstorms in the Tucson area can be interpreted as a welcome relief or downright scary. While dust storms, afternoon rains and frequent thunder and lightning have become the norm for Tucson's summer days, many people are fascinated with the power and force of lightning. Here are some facts about this awe-inspiring natural phenomenon:

- Ice in a cloud may be a key in the development of lightning. Ice particles collide as they swirl around in a storm, causing a separation of electrical charges. The negatively-charged ice pellets fall and melt into the lower regions of the storm and the positively-charged cloud droplets rise on updrafts to the top of the storm. Lightning results from the buildup and discharge of electrical energy between positively and negatively-charged areas.
- The average lightning strike is three to six miles long.
- What is the diameter of a typical lightning bolt? About the size of a quarter! Hard to believe, as lightning appears much bigger due to the brightness of the light.
- Voltage in a cloud-to-ground strike is 100 million to 1 billion volts.
- The energy from one lightning flash could light a 100-watt light bulb for more than three months.
- The air near a lightning strike is heated to 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit. That's hotter than the surface of the sun!
- The rapid heating and cooling of the air near the lightning channel causes a shock wave. That shock wave produces noise. In other words, thunder. Since light travels faster than sound, the thunder is heard after the lightning even though the event is occurring simultaneously.
- You can gauge the distance of lightning by the following loose guideline: Count the number of seconds between a flash of lightning and the next clap of thunder. Divide the number of seconds by five to determine how many miles away the lightning is.
- Each second there are 50 to 100 cloud-to-ground lightning strikes to the Earth world-wide.
- A "positive giant" is a strike that hits the ground up to 20 miles away from a storm. Because it seems to strike

from a clear sky, it's often referred to as "a bolt from the blue".

• Thunder can be heard from about 10 miles away. Daytime lightning in sunny or hazy conditions may be almost impossible to see, however, nighttime lightning can be seen from up to 100 miles away.

• Besides cloud-to-ground strikes, lightning can move horizontally. Known as "lightning crawlers", these strikes can be much longer as they zap across clouds. Strikes as long as 40 miles in length are common and lightning crawlers over 75 miles long have been observed by radar!

• Most lightning strikes occur either at the beginning or the end of a storm.

• Lightning is the most frequently-encountered weather hazard people experience each year and is the number one cause of storm-related deaths. Lightning kills more people in the US each year than hurricanes and tornadoes combined.

• The odds of being struck in your lifetime is 1 in 3,000.

• Lightning can and often does strike twice. Many tall buildings and monuments are frequent targets of lightning. There are even instances of humans being struck multiple times within their lifetime.

• Although lightning can kill, only about 10 percent of victims die from the strike. However, about 70 percent of those survivors suffer long-term effects. Injuries can include cardiac arrest, severe burns, permanent brain damage with memory loss or personality changes, chronic numbness and hearing loss.

• 85 percent of lightning victims are children and young men aged 10-35 years old.

• 70 percent of lightning injuries and fatalities occur in the afternoon.

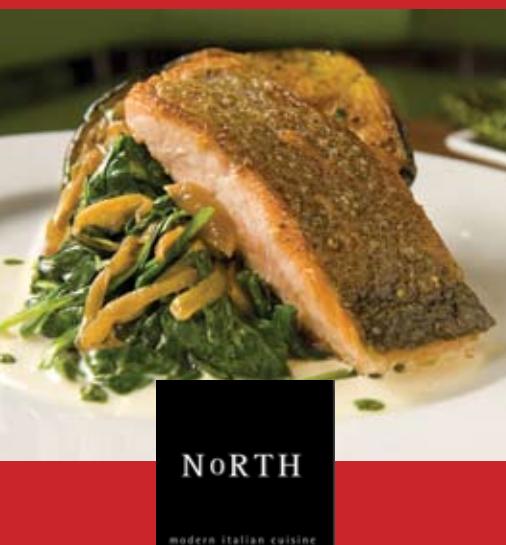
• Many survivors of lightning strikes report that their hair was standing on end and they had a metallic taste in their mouth immediately before being struck.

• The Fourth of July is historically one of the deadliest times of the year for lightning-related injuries and deaths because so many people are recreating outside. Be careful out there!

# STRIKE ALERT

## flash facts about lightning

**LOCAL FLAVOR!**



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## **SALMON, ROASTED SQUASH AND SWEET ONIONS**

### **Roasted Salmon**

4-5 oz Salmon Filet  
3 Tbs. Olive Oil  
1/2 tsp. Kosher Salt  
to taste Fresh Cracked Pepper

Method: Lightly season salmon with salt and pepper. Warm sauté pan to a medium heat. Add oil to pan and place salmon into the pan away from you. Lower heat and turn salmon once it has reached a golden-brown color. This should take about 4-5 minutes. Place in a 360 degree oven for about 5 minutes.

### **Acorn Squash**

2 each Whole Acorn Squash  
1/2 cup Olive Oil  
1 tsp. Kosher Salt  
to taste Fresh Cracked Pepper

Method: Cut squash into halves. Scrape the inside to remove all of the seeds from the center. Lightly coat squash with olive oil, salt and pepper. Place into a 360 degree oven for about 30 minutes or until soft. From the oven, the squash is ready to serve with the salmon.

Place one half of the roasted squash per person onto the plate with salmon. Top with chopped parsley and fresh lemon. Accompany with a sauté of spinach and sweet onions. Serves four.