

The Word from Gary

I have a confession to make. **There is a secret side of my life** that only a few select people know about. This secret was a major part of my childhood. As I got older I simply shut it away and tried to pretend it didn't exist. Then, a few weeks ago I was invited to a party with a bunch of other couples... a bowling party!



Yes, my name is Gary and I am a **BOWLER**. Mike knows of my bowling history, but tries not to talk about it. He prefers to think of it as something I did "before." I tried to play it cool, but as the night of the party came closer, I got more and more excited. After Mike went to bed one night, I went out to our storage shed to find buried treasure; my bowling bag.

This is not just any bag. My bag holds two balls and my quite attractive bowling shoes, plus years of bowling accessories. At first I was crushed, my bag had been in storage for so long that it wasn't looking very pretty. It felt like the scene from Toy Story 3 when **all the toys are sad because no one plays with them anymore**. I immediately went to work cleaning and bringing everything back to their former glory.

Those who have only bowled casually may not be aware that bowling balls come with strong, powerful names. **Mine are no exception: Primal Rage and The Hammer**. As I reached in to pull them out, my nerves were on edge. It had been ages since I'd last picked them up, and over the years I might have gained a 'few' relationship pounds. Thankfully the bowling gods wanted me back on the lanes because everything fit like a glove!

On the day of the party, I made up a couple of excuses for errands I needed to run. Then I slipped out to get in some practice to ensure I would look good at the party. **I felt a thrill as I rolled my first strike in years**. Damn did it feel good! Oh yeah, **STRIKER** was back!

Memories from my childhood came rushing back to me, and I quickly remembered why I enjoyed bowling so much. **Bowling creates an instant bond with people**. I ended up practicing with a retired Marine who had recently moved back to Oregon. He had been at the US Embassy in Beirut when it was bombed and had received five Purple Hearts. We talked, we bowled and we talked some more. I also got to meet a young family bowling next to us. I even taught their eight year old son how to improve his swing, and he was so excited when he got a strike he came running over to hug me!

After practicing, I was ready to show-off at the party. Sadly, I discovered **my skills were not really a big factor during "crazy" bowling!** Bowling with my eyes closed or 'granny' style didn't exactly call on my expertise. I did however manage to get a strike while bowling through two sets of my girlfriends' legs. Like I said...I've still got it!

Now, dust off your bowling bag and go have some fun! There has been a lot happening so far this year and I hope you enjoy reading all about it. Please let me know if there is anything I can do for you, your friends or family - that's what I'm here for.



Gay Mafia!



Madonna is proof that **reinventing oneself is an art form**. Timm McBride is a member of my "Gay Mafia" who has also reinvented himself and is now creating art every day as a **professional Hair Stylist**.

I first had the opportunity to get to know Timm as a Realtor in our community. A client selected each of us independently and during our first phone call it was obvious why. Timm is **blessed with an amazing sense of humor**, and I couldn't get enough of it!

After many years in real estate Timm was ready for a new challenge. One day, his husband Dan simply asked him "If you could do anything, what would you do?" That simple question led Timm to enroll at Phagans School of Hair Design to **fulfill a dream**.

Timm dived in and completed 2,300 hours of training. His specialties are cuts and colors. "I can do everything from traditional to runway," he told me. **I just wish I had more hair** so I could experience his gifts firsthand!

If you are looking for a stylist that you just can't wait to go back and see again, **you will love sitting in Timm's chair**. **I guarantee the hardest part will be leaving after having so much fun!**



You can reach Timm at:
Hair Architects
503-313-5908
Tmcbridepdx@gmail.com
www.hair-architects.com



MortgageMonkey.com
Impac Home Lending
NMLSP# 57785/126231
Gary@Impacpdx.com

Office: 503.243.2674
Call: 503.807.3925



Gary Boyer
 Impac Home Lending
 111 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 2625
 Portland, OR 97204

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 Same great service!*



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MortgageMonkey.com – *Extreme* Makeover

I am very excited to announce that the New & Improved MortgageMonkey.com is now LIVE!

Building on the casual and welcoming tone of my previous website was paramount to me. I love what I do and I want anyone who visits my site to see that. Just because it's mortgage related doesn't mean it has to be stuffy and boring! I've taken that philosophy to a whole new level. You can now browse the latest postings from my Mortgage Monkey Facebook page, revisit archived Mortgage Monkey newsletters, and even enjoy my first YouTube video all in one convenient place!

I also incorporated suggestions from all of YOU:

- Contact information is very clear.
- Navigation is cleaner and easier to use.
- The latest in social media is incorporated.
- NEW photos...after all I believe in truth in advertising!
- Google map link to my office is right on the homepage.
- Smart phone and tablet friendly for easy viewing on the go.

Check it out and let me know what you think. **Your feedback is incredibly helpful** for me to ensure my website is a valuable resource and easy for you to share with family and friends who would benefit from talking with me.



Same Office, New Name!

My desk hasn't moved in years...but there is a new name on the door! I am excited to announce that my office is now a part of **Impac Home Lending** which is a division of Impac Companies, a publicly traded company with deep roots in the mortgage business. With the market constantly evolving, I felt it was important to have national backing that would ensure I'd have continued access to the widest variety of products.

The great news is everything that happens for my clients will continue to be handled locally. It's very important to me to have local control that allows me to make sure everything is handled quickly and efficiently.

My office phone number is still **503-243-2674** and you can also reach me at **503-807-3925**. The only change on the communication front is my new email address: **Gary@Impacpdx.com**.

