

May 2011

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Don Puryear's...



Service For Life!®

"Insider Tips for Healthy, Wealthy & Happy Living..."

How to Save Money on Gas



With the price of gas rising, you need to get the most out of every gallon. When it's time to buy, look for the most fuel-efficient car that meets your needs, and until then, use these tips to be more gas savvy.

- 💰 **Shop for the best price.** You can see current average gas prices in the U.S. and Canada at a site such as www.gasbuddy.com. For your local area, type in your address at <http://gasprices.mapquest.com>.
- 💰 **Look for the right station.** There's a price leader in your area. That may be a wholesale club or grocery store that wants to get you in their store to shop for other items. Buy in the morning before competitors have a chance to match each other's price increases. Avoid gas stations near major freeway exits and stations that have an auto repair shop on site, since they can be more expensive.
- 💰 **Modify your driving habits.** Don't drive too slow or too fast (most cars are set to achieve optimal fuel economy around 55 mph) and use cruise control on the highway. Try to combine your driving trips. Don't carry excess weight in the trunk. Cut down on your air conditioning use.
- 💰 **Maintain your car.** Fixing a car that's out of tune or has failed an emissions test can improve its gas mileage by 4 percent. Replacing a clogged air filter on an older car will improve fuel economy 2-6 percent.
- 💰 **Keep your tires inflated to the proper pressure for your car.** You can improve your MPG by up to 3.3 percent. Check your owner's manual.
- 💰 **Get smart.** Know that these are **misconceptions**:
 - *Using premium gas improves fuel economy.* Most cars don't need it; again, check your owner's manual.
 - *It takes more fuel to start a car than it does to idle.* Modern fuel-injected engines start efficiently. Idling can use a quarter to half gallon of fuel per hour.
 - *"Gas saving" devices or additives will save you money.* The Environmental Protection Agency says they may damage your engine.



MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 30, 2011

Originally known as Decoration Day, Memorial Day is a time of remembrance and commemoration for those who gave their lives fighting to provide us the freedoms we enjoy in America.

Remember our Veterans!

Get Free money-saving home tips at my web site: www.NoPlaceLikeHouston.com

Joker's Corner

Why is it unpleasant to eat a meal next to a group of basketball players?



They dribble far too much!

Copyrighted Colors?

That's right! These shades are trademarked:

- UPS Brown
- Barbie Pink
- Target Red
- Whiffle Ball Yellow
- Home Depot Orange

Are you Crafty?

If you're looking for a place to sell your items, check out www.etsy.com. You'll find a community of people to share your talents with.

What's on Your Pizza?

Americans eat 350 slices of pizza a second, and our most popular topping is pepperoni, but what about other countries? Perhaps you'll test them?

India – Pickled Ginger, Minced Mutton and Paneer Cheese

Japan – Mayo Jaga (combination of mayo, potato, bacon), eel and squid

Brazil – Green peas

Russia – Red herring

Notable Quotables

Life is partly what we make it, and partly what is made by the friends we choose.

~Tennessee Williams

I was going to thrash them within an inch of their lives, but I didn't have a tape measure.

~Groucho Marx



Need More Time? Learn To Read Faster

You can add hours to your day by learning to speed read – and you don't have to take an expensive course to do it; just practice, practice, practice!

Determine your current reading speed. Google *reading speed test* which also tests your comprehension level. You'll need it to measure your progress.

Before you start reading, scan the material for headings, bullet points and sentences in bold. This will help you select the parts you want to focus on.

Change your reading habits.

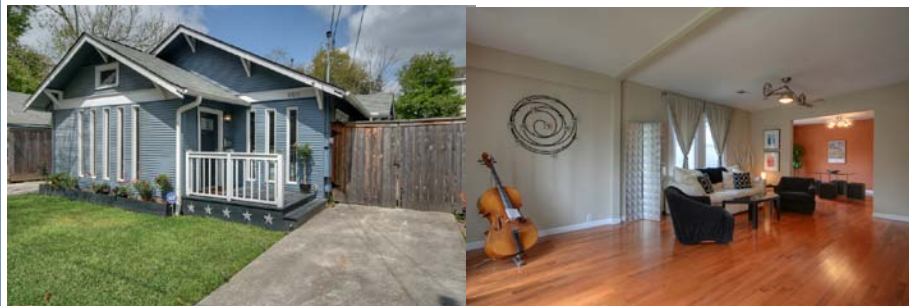
- ◆ Don't read "a-word-at-a-time" as you learned in school. Teach yourself to read groups of words and expand the number as you go along.
- ◆ Don't move your lips as you read or say the words in your head (not easy habits to break). We talk at about 250-350 words/minute whereas an efficient scanner may increase the rate to between 400-500 words/minute.
- ◆ Draw your hand or a card down the page as you read. Move it consistently and your eyes will follow the motion.

Build your vocabulary. You won't be slowed down by words you don't understand.

Don't try to read and multitask. Turn off the TV, find a quiet place and focus on learning this new skill.

Adjust your reading speed to suit your reading purpose. Speed reading is not suitable if you're reading a book for the beauty of the words, perusing a legal document or studying specific material for a test.

Featured Property: Montrose Bungalow!



Welcome to 806 Willard!

Classic & contemporary blend beautifully in this outstanding Montrose bungalow. Cinnamon maple wood floors throughout this lovingly remodeled open floorplan home. Stainless/granite kitchen with breakfast area and high-end appliances. Formal dining with gorgeous contemporary lighting. Dual master bedrooms with modern ensuite baths ideal for roommates. Landscaped backyard & huge deck ideal for entertaining. Two separate driveways with gated parking. Visit 806Willard.com for more information

Brain Teaser

What animal can take off with more than 30 times a space shuttle's acceleration and jump 38 times higher than the length of its body?

(See page 4 for the answer.)

Cynicism or Realism?

- ◆ If the grass is greener on the other side, you can bet the water bill is higher.
- ◆ The Five Stages of Acquisition: Infatuation, Justification, Appropriation, Obsession & Resale
- ◆ Books have knowledge, knowledge is power, power corrupts, corruption is a crime, and crime doesn't pay... so keep reading and you'll go broke!

Where'd I put it?

According to Logitech, your remote will most likely be between the cushions of your couch. Not there?

Try these spots:

- The bathroom
- A dresser drawer
- The fridge/freezer
- Outside or in the car

Childseat Safety Changes!

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has revised its child restraint guidelines categorized by age instead of type of child seat. To see which seat is right for your child, go to www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/CPS

Indoor Raspberry S'mores

Quick and easy treat that will only set you back 150 calories!

Spread 1 tsp raspberry jam on 2 Graham crackers (don't break them apart). Top with 1 lg marshmallow and ½ oz square of dark chocolate. Microwave 10 to 15 seconds until marshmallow begins to melt.

Safety Tips for Kids & Pets

Did you just get a new pet? The ASPCA offers these tips to teach your younger children how to get along with this new member of the family.

- ✗ Talk to your children about your pet's "body language." A dog's growl, cat's hiss or swipes with a paw are warning signs to leave the pet alone.
- ✗ Make sure your children don't bother the pet when it goes to its bed, crate or "safe spot."
- ✗ Teach your children and pets to respect each other and "play nice." For fun activities by age, go to www.asPCA.org/pet-care/kids-and-pets.
- ✗ Train your dog to respond to the word "stop." Teach your kids to use that word (instead of screaming or running away) if the dog gets overexcited.
- ✗ Don't let your pet play with your child's toys...or vice versa.
- ✗ If your children are old enough, let them take some responsibility for caring for the pet. Set reasonable consequences if they neglect their pet duties.

PROTEST DEADLINE: With few exceptions, the deadline for protesting Harris County Appraisal District's assessment of your property value is **May 31st**. You can file your protest yourself online at www.HCAD.org or engage a professional to assist you. Laura Mullen handles my protests, and she can be reached at **713-526-5978** or by email at LMullen@MullenConsultingLLC.com.

National Hamburger Month!

May is National Hamburger Month! Celebrate by grilling some hamburgers for Memorial Day, but give them a new kick!

Ever heard of a German Burger, Sate Burger or Carpetbagger Burger? Neither did I until visiting www.hamburger-recipes.com! There are some yummy ideas!



Temporary Solution for Odd Chores

You rent a car when you're on vacation, but did you ever think about renting other items you might need at home or away? Here are some possibilities from the practical to the more unusual.

Tools. Save money by renting everything from a miter saw to a paint sprayer or a hole digger for a few hours or up to a month from big home improvement stores.

Camping equipment. You can rent tents, mountaineering gear and camping stoves from companies like REI. Go online to see what some of the parks themselves have available. A sleeping bag at the Grand Canyon or Yosemite goes for \$10-\$13 a night.

Designer clothes. At a site such as www.renttherunway.com you can rent a gown from over 95 designers for up to 90 percent off retail prices.

Friends. Go to <http://rentafriend.com> to find a friend to hang out with or show you around a new city. 417,000 friends are available worldwide.

Goats. To clear some land (near Seattle), try www.rentaruminant.com.

Thanks for Thinking of Me!

Did you know I can help you or any of your friends, family or acquaintances save time and money when buying or selling a home

ANYWHERE

IN THE WORLD?



RE/MAX sells more real estate than any other company, and we have over **100,000** agents worldwide – resources and experience we can make available to YOU! Thanks for keeping me in mind with your referrals...and spreading the word!

BRAIN TEASER ANSWER

A flea!

It's All English, Right?

OMG, LOL, *muffin top*, ♥ “to heart,” *wassup* and *couch surfing* are now officially listed in the Oxford English Dictionary Online. They join other entries such as IMHO, TMI and BFF. If it's possible that you don't know what these mean, ask your kids!
OMG – Oh my God!
LOL – Laugh out Loud
TMI – Too much information
BFF – Best friends forever
IMHO – In my honest opinion

THANK YOU for reading my Service For Life![®] newsletter. Your feedback and suggestions are always welcome. And whether you're thinking of buying, selling or leasing, or just simply want to say “Hi,” I'd love to hear from you!



Outstanding Agents.
Outstanding Results.
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Who Wants to Win a \$50 Gift Card to Marshalls/TJ Maxx?

Congratulations are in order for Toanne Choo, winner of last month's trivia contest:

Which U.S. state has the smallest resident population according to the 2010 census?

- a) Wyoming b) Rhode Island c) South Dakota d) Delaware

The answer is a) Wyoming. Enjoy your prize Toanne!

This month's trivia question is:

What is the largest known animal to exist on Earth?

- a) African elephant b) Giant squid
c) Sauropod Argentinosaurus d) Blue whale

The first TWO people to Email Me the correct answer at DonPuryear@ReMax.Net will win! Good Luck!

Real Estate Corner...

Q. What information do I need to know about home appraisals and home inspections?

A. In general, a home appraiser determines the value of a property, and a home inspector determines the condition of a structure. While appraisals are primarily for lenders, they also ensure that buyers don't overpay for a property. Home inspections are for buyers.

A home appraisal includes details about the house (including a standardized measurement of square footage), a description of the neighborhood and side-by-side comparisons of similar properties. It also contains an evaluation of the area's real estate market, notations of major problems with the property that will affect its value and an estimate of the expected time it will take to sell the property. Your lender will typically order the appraisal, but you are entitled by law to get a copy of it..

A home inspection is an evaluation of a home's condition that may identify improper building practices or the need for major repairs, as well as fire, safety and health hazards. You should always include an inspection contingency in your purchase offer. The information will help you determine how much you're willing to pay for a home and what repair items may need to be addressed prior to purchasing the home or subsequent to taking ownership.

If you have any questions, or need capable and trustworthy representation, please call me at **713-302-6543**.
Get Free money-saving home tips at my web site: www.NoPlaceLikeHouston.com