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# SUMMERWOOD

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South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch).....	281-459-1277
Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1) .....	281-820-5151
Animal Control .....	281-999-3191
After Hours .....	281-221-5000

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Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline .....	888-782-8477
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Southwestern Bell Telephone.....	800-464-7928
Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
Houston Lighting & Power (HL&P).....	713-207-7777
Municipal Utility District (MUD #342).....	713-983-3602
24 Hour Service Number .....	713-983-3604
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(Pick up on Mon. & Thurs - Garbage must be out by 7 a.m.)	

### SUMMERWOOD MARKETING

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### SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary.....	281-641-3000
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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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## Volunteers Needed

*Submitted by Tray Owens*

School we be starting again soon. We are in need of volunteers to help as crossing guards. **OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU.** If you can volunteer 30 minutes in the morning or afternoon (or both) please contact me. You choose the day or days of the week that you can help along with morning or afternoon. We need help at both intersections (Duessen Parkway and Summerwood Lakes Drive).



I have t-shirts, hats, rain ponchos, and stop signs for all volunteers. Please help out and show your support.

Contact me [tracy.owens1414@att.net](mailto:tracy.owens1414@att.net)

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**I**f you have worked with me in the past, you have experienced my dedication and commitment to ensuring your transaction was a smooth and positive experience. I promise that same commitment to your family, friends, and acquaintances. Please tell them how much I will do for them!



### Health & Safety

**H**ome security is important to everyone. "Case" your house just as a burglar would, and implement these tips to make your home more secure:

**Bushes:** Trim shrubbery around your house so that landscaping will not provide concealment for criminals. Plant spiny (thorny) plants along fences and under windows.

**Exterior Lighting:** Security lighting that is located out of reach and is vandal resistant should protect all sides of your home. The best choice is a motion detector type of fixture, which warns the resident that something is in the yard.

**Doors:** All exterior doors should be solid core wood and equipped with deadbolt locks. Install a peephole or a wide-angle viewer in the door for identifying visitors.



**Windows:** Double-hung windows can be secured simply by "pinning" the upper and lower frames together with a nail.

**Keys:** Re-key all locks when you move into a new home or apartment. Never hide a key outside your home; burglars know all the usual hiding places.

Remember, most home burglaries are crimes of opportunity. The more you can do to keep your home from looking like an easy target, the more security you have.

### Household Tips

**G**ood home maintenance is good feng shui. Millionaires don't live with dust bunnies or leaky taps, and neither should you. Shift the *chi* (vital energy) of your home toward prosperity by attending to housekeeping and maintenance issues that may be draining your energy and abundance. Common problems to look out for, and why:



- A cracked walkway, sagging porch steps, or ratty doormat can literally or symbolically trip you up and make it difficult to achieve your goals.
- In feng shui, the kitchen and the stove are very important to prosperity. Broken burners indicate financial problems. Dirt and grime will also affect your stove's prosperity chi, so keep it clean.
- Plumbing problems indicate that resources are leaking away from the home. Fix them immediately!
- Anything dirty, dingy, or broken is bringing negative energy into your home. Clean it up, fix it, or throw it out.

If you are working with another Real Estate Professional, please disregard this notice.

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# SUMMERWOOD

## Recipe of the Month:



### Chicken Apple Salad

#### Ingredients

- 1 cup cubed chicken
- 2 cups shredded cabbage
- 1/3 cup chopped celery
- Juice of one lemon
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup cubed apple, do not peel
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans

#### Directions

Combine first 6 ingredients in large mixing bowl. Add just enough mayonnaise to moisten. Cover and chill at least 1 hr. before serving.

#### Note:

Small can crushed pineapple(drained) can also be added.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

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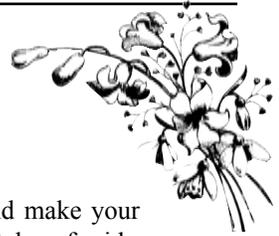
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## August Landscaping

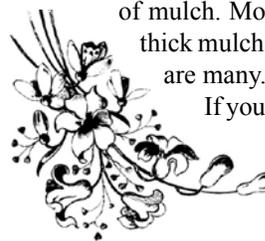
*Submitted by Ron Kerwin*



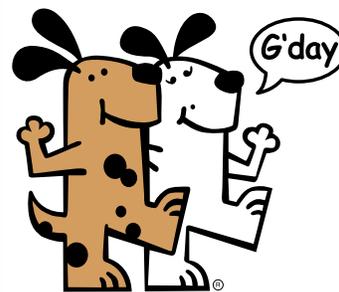
August is a great month to stay inside and make your plans for this fall's plantings. Browse the catalogs for ideas and bulbs to order now to plant in November and December for next spring's display. If you are going to work in the lawn or garden, plan it around the early morning or evening in the cooler hours. Drink plenty of water to keep from dehydrating.

The July heat may have already taken its toll on your annuals. If they are beyond help, pull them out and replace them with more heat tolerant varieties. If they are okay but overgrown, you can trim back your annuals and perennials by 1/3 to 1/2 to get better flowering in the fall. You can also trim off the dead or damaged canes and the errant chutes from your roses to enhance the fall blooms. Fertilize your roses right after you prune, as this application is very important. Do NOT trim flowering shrubs, like Indian Hawthorns, after July or you will probably trim off the buds (look like berries) that would provide the flowers next year. Rework your beds to prepare them for fall plantings of flowers or vegetables. Bury in the compost materials and add the mulch on top. They will be ready for planting when it is time. You can fertilize your lawns this month with a 3-1-2 ratio 50% slow release nitrogen fertilizer. This is a good fertilizer for your shrubs and flowerbeds too.

The heat stresses all our lawns, shrubs etc. We will probably not get much rain so we will have to water with irrigation systems or drag around sprinklers to keep everything from burning up. 1 inch of water per week should be enough. Do not water in mid-day, as most of it will simply evaporate prior to getting into the ground. Irrigate in the early morning if possible. Water deeply, not frequently. Watering in the evening can lead to plant diseases. Maintain the water in the soil of your beds more effectively by having a good thick layer of mulch. Most every month I comment on the benefits of thick mulch but it is a topic worth repeating, as its benefits are many.



If your property is in need of new sod, it can be put in now with no problems as long as you water it properly. With new sod, you do not have to suffer with mud in the fall and winter.



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## Natural Watch Dog

I spoke with a man yesterday who has a “great watchdog”. His dog lets him know when his neighbor is outside, when the kids down the street come home from school or are outside playing, when there is a squirrel on the lawn, when the mail arrives, when the neighbors get a UPS delivery, when a bird lands, a cat is out, when someone walks their dog, and on and on. WOW was I impressed. I couldn’t help wondering how many times this guy was getting up to check on these alerts from his dog. I’m guessing a lot as he knew exactly what his dog was barking at. I got tired just thinking about having to check on all that activity.

I almost asked him how he would know if there was something that really needed his attention. To my thinking this wasn’t a watch dog, but a nuisance barker. Can dogs learn the difference? Thankfully the answer is YES! Rover can learn to distinguish the difference, as long as we know the difference.

Rover is not a barker. I wish I could say that about the other dogs in our neighborhood. There are two yorkies behind us who go ballistic when anyone walks by. There is Rover’s friend Emma the mixed up mutt next door who tries to tell the yorkies to shut up. There’s Charlie the lab down the street who barks at every dog that walks by his house. You can follow us around the block, just by listening to the barking.

These dogs are all barking inappropriately. In other words this is nuisance barking. Birds, squirrels, leaves, cats, lizards or other dogs and people are not things we need Rover telling us about. Fires, someone breaking in, or unexpected things are what we want to be notified about.

As I said, Rover is not a barker. He’ll look towards the sound of other dogs barking but he doesn’t join in. The times he did join in we corrected him. We consistently let him know that we didn’t need to know if the Yorkies saw someone or even if he saw someone. It was none of his business, but if he wanted to watch he could do so quietly. Now he basically ignores the cacophony of the “watch dogs”. But he will alert us to unusual events.

One night I was having trouble sleeping and got up and went outside in the middle of the night. Rover didn’t hear me go out but he did hear me come back in. He gave a couple of warning barks and started growling when he heard the front door open. The door opening in the middle of the night was unusual. He woke Cathy, alerting her to my sneaking back in. Even though he ratted me out he still got lots of praise for raising the alarm.

Dogs will naturally alert you to the things out of the ordinary. They WILL warn about unusual events, even if they are corrected for barking at the wrong things.

If Rover is a nuisance barker the chances are that over time we’ll just tune him out. It’s like the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf really comes we won’t believe him.

Nuisance barking CAN be corrected but it’s important to address the cause(s) and not just the symptom(s). Dogs bark for various reasons such as calling the pack, trying to scare someone or something, because they are afraid, or because they’re bored. It’s often stressful

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

	5		7	8		9		
				1				
9		6			3			
			2			8		
3	7				5			
				4			1	
7		2						
8	6		5			2		
			1			4		

\*See solution at [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com)

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## Summerwood Family Clinic

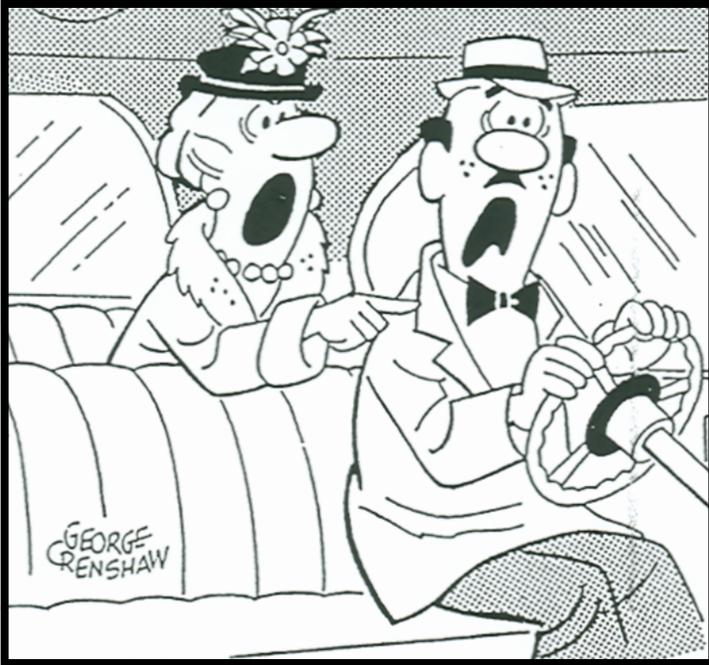
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# SUMMERWOOD



*"So what's new about air bags in cars? I've been driving with one for years."*

## Natural Watch Dog - (Continued from Page 5)

not only to us and our neighbors, but to the dogs as well. This is especially true with issues of separation anxiety.

Do you have a neighbor whose dog is creating a nuisance with his constant barking? How you approach this might be difficult. You might ask if their dog is ok because it seems to be upset a lot. If it only barks when the owners aren't home they might not even know it's barking. Ask about the dog with concern instead of confrontation and you may have a better chance of getting the owner to understand there's a problem.

Once the inappropriate barking is under control you'll have a natural watchdog. One who alerts you to something out of the ordinary, and

one who's warning you can trust. Once we can trust Rover's warning we'll know when we have to really check on things and it won't be because the kids down the street are outside playing. The results?

Happy Dogs = Happy Families and Happy Neighbors.



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## Family Volunteering: Doing Good Together

*Submitted by Wendi Baird*

During a recent camping trip, my children were shocked to see the amount of trash left along the river bank following a long holiday weekend. "Didn't the people see the empty trash cans," asked my daughter with all the childlike wisdom of an eight year old. As we looked downstream, we noticed a lone Park Ranger walking along the banks with a trash bag picking up all the empty cans and other garbage left behind by the holiday revelers.

I saw the light bulbs go off simultaneously in my kids' minds ... "Mom, can we go back to our camper and get some trash bags to help, too?" To be honest, my first thought as a mom was that I didn't want my children touching all that germ-infested garbage. But then I realized what a great learning opportunity this could be. Here was a problem, and it was one that we could work together as a family to remedy. So after walking along the river banks, filling up two trash bags with garbage, we finally caught up to the Park Ranger downstream. Although he was very appreciative of the help, he was quite surprised by our efforts. "You shouldn't have to do this," he said. "It isn't your trash or your responsibility to pick it up".

I don't know what was more disappointing that morning – the fact that this beautiful park was strewn with garbage (while empty trash cans sit in plain site) or the surprise shown by the Park Ranger that someone would voluntarily help pick up the garbage.

It seems that the phrase "That's not in my job description" has become

a common mantra today. I firmly believe that one way to combat the selfish and materialistic attitudes prevalent in our society is through Family Volunteering. It's one thing to tell our children that we need to help others. But actually doing volunteer projects together as a family instills life lessons that won't be readily abandoned later in life.

According to the website [www.DoingGoodTogether.org](http://www.DoingGoodTogether.org), family volunteering "is a hands-on way to teach children the values of kindness, compassion, tolerance, community responsibility and good citizenship." The website is full of ideas for family volunteer projects. One of my favorites is one that even the youngest children can do. Create a "Giving Box" from an old coffee can or shoe box. Let your children decorate it and then place it in a prominent location in your home. Encourage your children to fill it with any loose change they find. Then as the Holiday Season approaches, let your children help choose where the money will be donated. For example, they could use the money to buy a toy to donate to Blue Santa or to buy canned goods to donate to the local food pantry.

Our children still talk about that family experience of picking up trash along the Frio River. It was gratifying to all of us to see how clean the riverbank looked after spending just a few minutes helping that lone park ranger. But, more importantly, it reinforced to us as parents that it's one thing to teach your children something, but the impact is far greater when you show them!

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## IT'S YOUR MONEY Give Your Finances a Clean Sweep

by Rich Keith

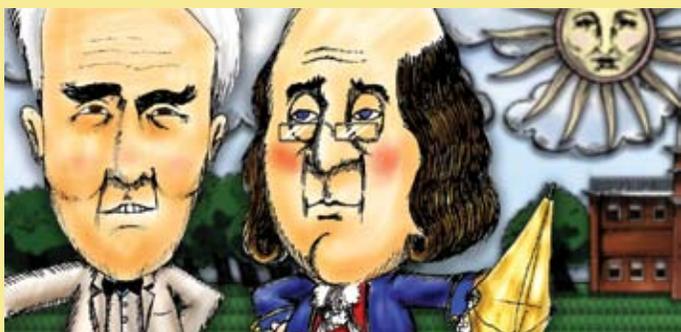
(NAPS)—Anytime of year can be the right time to get your home office organized—and while you're at it, your finances too. Here are some tips:

- **Take out the garbage.** Start with your desk top—not the one on your computer, the real one. If your desk is covered in paperwork, weed out what's important and store key documents in a central place. This could be a good time to dust off your credit report as well. If you are the victim of identity theft, one of the first places it can show up is on your credit report. Even though new legislation entitles you to one free report each year, it's estimated that only 10 percent of consumers are taking advantage of it. According to Money Magazine, 33 percent of those who did get a report found errors. To request a copy, visit [annual.credireport.com](http://annual.credireport.com) or contact one of the major credit bureaus: Equifax, Experian or TransUnion.
- **Make everything within reach.** When organizing your office, it's important to keep frequently used items close at hand. The same applies to your financial goals. Set goals you can reach. For example, start your retirement fund by putting a set amount every month into an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

- **Have a backup plan for files and finances.** If you have important documents stored on your computer, back them up onto CDs once a month and store them in a fireproof safe. When it comes to financial backup, create an emergency fund of at least three months salary. Also, update your life insurance policy. Newsweek recently stated that for a married couple with two children, it is advisable to have life insurance protection that equals eight times your annual income. And while you're at it make sure your will is current.

**Shred it and forget it.** If you don't have a paper shredder, get one. Shred old quarterly statements on investments once you have the annual statements. Also, shredding anything you don't need that contains your Social Security number or birth date can be your first line of defense against identity theft. One easy way to eliminate clutter in your home office may be to sign up for online banking and cut down on the need for paper statements.

- **Make it automatic.** One easy way to eliminate clutter may be to sign up for online banking and cut down on the need for paper statements. Plus, you can set up monthly withdrawals from your checking account that are deposited into an IRA—starting with as little as \$25 a month.



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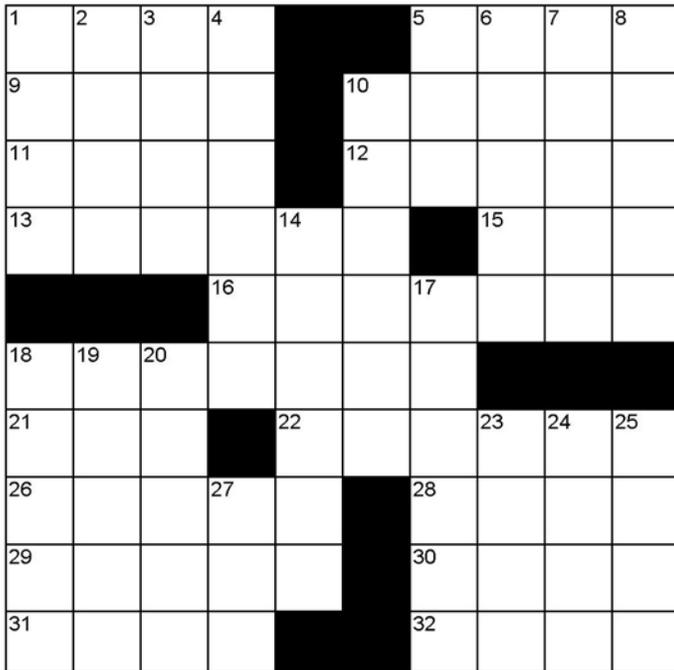
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## Crossword Puzzle



\*See solution at [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com)

### ACROSS

1. Curse
5. Glasses
9. Charge card
10. Japanese dish
11. Pear type
12. Type of alcohol
13. Mete out
15. Deer relative
16. Mountains
18. Sin
21. Fawn's mom
22. Rain shoe
26. Angry
28. Sole
29. Whoop
30. A spinning toy (2 wds.)
31. Plateau
32. Former magistrate of Venice

### DOWN

1. Baby's "ball"
2. Famous cookies
3. Loch \_\_ monster
4. Levy
5. Jag
6. Direct
7. Animal kingdom division
8. Soft materials
10. Member of an American Indian people
14. Dancer Rogers
17. Put more ammunition in
18. Abhorrence
19. Skill
20. Heroic actions
23. Upon
24. Slug
25. Publicity
27. Drink

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## The Green Corner

*Submitted by Sheri Hicks*

### Green Up Your Everyday Cleaning

When I began going green, I started with the chemicals under my sink. I had already deduced by the chemical components, the ingredient list and the disposal warnings - they couldn't be good for the planet. What I didn't know is that despite heavy marketing claims that these products were not only safe but necessary to keep my home beautiful and healthy, they were actually causing far more harm than good.

I was shocked to find, during my research, that the EPA estimates indoor air pollution is up to five times greater than outdoor air pollution in part due to common household cleaners, aerosols, air fresheners, disinfectants, and even dry-cleaned clothing (solvent emissions). Recent studies also show a link between common household cleaners and asthma, the number one childhood chronic illness. The reason for this is that the chemical compounds in these products, when used and even while stored, emit harmful gasses that can cause eye, nose and throat irritation and respiratory issues. They are also linked to headaches, loss of coordination, nausea and liver, kidney and central nervous system damage. In some cases, they have been known to cause cancer in laboratory animals and humans and are suspected in links to neurological issues including ADHD and Parkinson's disease.

You don't have to compromise between the health and safety of your family and a clean environment. Below are my top five green cleaning solutions. Not only are they non-toxic and as effective as commercial cleaners but all of them are significantly less expensive than their commercial counterpart, something I appreciate in the midst of today's rapidly rising gas and grocery prices.

1. Baking soda is a very low cost yet extremely versatile foundation to green cleaning. Among other things, it can be used as a deodorizer, a stain remover, and a mild abrasive that can be used on porcelain bath and sink fixtures and stovetops. I once removed permanent marker from my coffee table by scrubbing with baking soda and a damp cloth.
2. Vinegar acts as a mild disinfectant and often boosts the power of baking soda. Nothing, not even Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser, can compete with the combined power of vinegar and baking soda on baked on food. Use to clean toilets, floors, windows and stove tops. Sprinkle baking soda into a slow drain and follow with vinegar, the reaction will help loosen clogs and open drains.
3. Pure Essential Oils are good substitutes for synthetic fragrances. Sprinkle your favorite essential oil (my favorites are lavender, peppermint and lemon) in a bowl of water to sit on the counter, sprinkle in closets, vacuum bags or vehicle

carpets for a safe air freshener. Be careful, essential oils are toxic to cats if applied directly to their fur.

4. Grain alcohol with high alcohol content is an effective disinfectant or even window cleaner to replace the harsher ammonia-based window cleaners or petroleum-based disinfectants. It can also be used in the occasional after cleaning cocktail! As with all alcohol products, keep out of reach of children.
5. Lemon juice is a natural stain remover and laundry brightener; a safe alternative to bleach. I recently removed a black grease stain from a pair of white pants with the power of pure lemon juice. It can also be mixed with vinegar to make a powerful disinfectant that can be used in the kitchen, in the bathroom, on floors and anywhere else germs may be lurking.

If you shy away from making your own cleaning products, there are now many safe non-toxic alternatives available on market shelves. My favorite for non-toxic dish soap (both liquid and automatic dishwasher soap), laundry soaps and softeners are made by Seventh Generation but there are other good products such as Mrs. Meyers and Planet. For an even bigger boost to the environment, use cloth rags that can be washed with the laundry instead of disposable products such as wipes or paper towels.





## Meet Devion

Devion, who turned 6 years old in July, has been in foster care four years. While Devion loved the gifts he received for his birthday, the greatest gift he could get is a forever family. He said "it doesn't matter what type of family, just a forever family".

Devion is with wonderful foster parents who spend a tremendous amount of time helping the

children to overcome trauma, heal and grow.

Devion has flourished in their home!

Here is a paragraph from the foster mom: Devion came to our home just before his 4th birthday. Upon coming to our home Devion quickly became our "Peanut" because he was so tiny for his age. Our little Peanut is growing and thriving and has grown 6 inches in two years. Devion's only little in physical size. He is convinced he is the biggest kid around and that he can do anything anyone else can do. This little man lights up any room he enters with his smile and personality. Devion loves attending church and enjoys singing in

the children's choir. While he has difficulty playing independently, Devion loves to do almost anything outside. He loves to swim, ride bikes & scooters, play baseball, basketball & football and has even recently tried to water ski! Devion has played 4 seasons of t-ball and one season of basketball since living in our home and loves telling everyone about it.

Devion has attended a full year of Head Start and kindergarten but will need to repeat kindergarten this fall. While Devion has wonderful gross motor skills he struggles with his fine motor skills. He also has some speech delays. Devion receives speech and occupational therapy at school and through Easter Seals. While Devion has made much progress emotionally he continues to receive weekly therapy [therapy is important for children who transition through the foster care system]. Devion is very loving and affectionate. He enjoys being with others and would do well in a loving, structured, active home with one or two other children.

He is definitely quite the little ham. To learn more about Devion or the adoption process, contact Tracy Eilers at the Adoption Coalition of Texas,

512-301-2825

[www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org](http://www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org)

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	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08	Apr 08	May 08	Jun 08
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\$250 - 299,999	1	2	2	2	3	3
\$200 - 249,999	1	3	3	1	3	10
\$170 - 199,999	2	4	3	0	2	6
Under \$170,000	1	2	1	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>New Construction</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Resales</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Avg \$/Sq Ft</b>	<b>80.66</b>	<b>81.65</b>	<b>78.05</b>	<b>81.72</b>	<b>82.27</b>	<b>80.58</b>
<b>Avg Days on Mkt</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>103</b>



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\* All figures based off MLS data 7/7/08 \*\*For communities 2500 acres

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