



HIGHLAND PARK WEST BALCONES  
AREA NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

# THE HPWBANA NEWS

Volume 12, Number 6

June 2016

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

## *Farewell John Davol*

*By Trey McWhorter*

You may have seen the obituary in the Statesman a few weeks ago, but in case you didn't, I wanted to make sure neighbors knew about the recent passing of Mr. John Davol, who I believe was our longest-tenured neighbor (a Balcones Dr resident since 1952). I had the pleasure of meeting with and interviewing John at his home on Balcones Dr back in 2014 when he was 96. He was sharp as a tack, and a lot of fun to talk to. And I learned a few things then that I wanted to pass along.

Some quick history: John was born in Brooklyn, NY on December 6, 1917 to Frank H. Davol, Jr. and Hayes Rizbah Thomson. His mother (born in 1892) was an Austin-native, as was her mother (born 1861), who lived at 1508 Rio Grande St in the mid and late 1800's. John's parents met while traveling in Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia and married in 1913 in New Rochelle, NY. As his mom was from Austin, they would visit here regularly; a trip that took 2 days and 2 nights by train from New York.

After graduating from Yale as a history major, John moved to Harlingen, TX to work at a cottonseed oil mill. He married Dorothy Jane Critchlow of Sewickley, PA in 1940, and they resided in Harlingen until 1945 when they then moved to Connecticut. John worked days in NYC and schooled nights in same to prepare for his CPA. The family moved back to Texas to settle in Austin in 1948, where John first worked for Jack Stabbleford Pontiac at 1020 N. Lamar and then went to work as an accountant for Calcasieu Lumber Company (there is a good chance the lumber for your home

came from Calcasieu).

Prior to John and his family moving to Austin, John's parents had purchased a roughly 10-acre tract of land on "an old mule trail" known as Balcones Dr. The property was part of the Edgemont Mansion estate, owned by David Barrow, Sr. (the rest of which was later developed into the Colorado Foothills and Balcones Park

neighborhoods). John's parents carved out a 1.5-acre lot (4002 Balcones) for their son and his family, and then built a home in the perfect spot on the larger lot (4000 Balcones) in 1948 with an incredible lake and dam view. George Page, of Page Southerland Page, designed the homes on both properties. Mr. Davol and his wife completed and moved into their home in 1952, and eventually moved over to 4000 Balcones and sold 4002 Balcones after his parents passed away,



To give a little perspective on what the area was like when the elder Davols first settled down on Balcones Dr in 1948, they had no neighbors at the time. Balcones Dr didn't go all the way from 35th to Hancock, and wouldn't until ~1952. In fact, if the Davols wanted to go north, they had to go back on 35th, over the railroad tracks and take a left on Jackson, then a left on Bull Creek Rd and take that up to Hancock.

When I talked with John, he described how the road to Mt. Bonnell from town went from 35th to Covert Park, doing a zig-zag below

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Austin Citywide Information Center. 974-2000 or 311  
Emergency Police ..... 911  
Non-emergency Police (coyote sighting, etc.)..... 311  
Social Services (during work hours)..... 211  
Wildlife Rescue 24 Hour Hot Line ..... 210-698-1709  
APD REP. - Officer Darrell Grayson ..... 512-974-5242

## '15 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Pieter Sybesma ..... president@hpwbana.org

### VICE PRESIDENT

Jason Lindenschmidt..... vp@hpwbana.org

### TREASURER

Donna Edgar..... treasurer@hpwbana.org

### SECRETARY

Dawn Lewis ..... secretary@hpwbana.org

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tammy Starling..... newsletter@hpwbana.org

### WEBMASTER

Jan Roberts..... webmaster@hpwbana.org

### BOARD MEMBER

Ty Allen .....

Chereen Fisher .....

Rebecca Spratlin.....

Noel Stout.....

George Zwicker.....

*board@hpwbana.org*

The HPWBANA Board meets on the first Monday of each month except December. Please go to [HPWBANA.org](http://HPWBANA.org) for our current meeting location or contact [president@HPWBANA.org](mailto:president@HPWBANA.org).

HWPBANA is bordered on the north by 2222, on the south by 35th St., on the west by Mt. Bonnell Rd., and on the east by MoPac and by Bull Creek Rd. between Hancock Dr. and 45th St. Mail your membership dues to HPWBANA, P.O. Box 26101, Austin, Texas 78755

## ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the businesses that advertise in the HPWBANA Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No neighborhood association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

*(Continued from Cover)*

Mt. Bonnell on the east side. 35th to Westwood Club (established in 1955) was originally known as "Old Bull Creek Road". He talked about Bull Creek, and commented on the fact that in certain places you can still see the ruts in the soft limestone from the wagons that used to come through there.

As John's family's history dates so far back in Austin, and Texas generally (he told me that his great-great-grandfather was a land surveyor for Stephen F. Austin), many of his family's articles and writings are available from the Center for American History in the "Thomson-Bowers Family Papers" collection. John was an avid student of history. It was his degree from Yale and a passion, though not his profession, all his life.

It seemed appropriate to make note of the passing of this special neighbor, known for his wit, energy and friendliness, and for the fact that, from any other neighbor's perspective... he's always been here. Literally! Those who knew him will miss him, and for those that didn't have the opportunity to meet him, I hope this brief article gives you a small glimpse into the life of one of the very earliest residents of our great neighborhood.

If you want to read his obituary, the easiest way to find it is to go to [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) and enter his name: John Davol.



Call today for more info  
**512.263.9181**



[QualityPrintingOfAustin.com](http://QualityPrintingOfAustin.com)

# Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

## SPRING CLEANING – ELECTRONICS AND BATTERIES

Summer is almost here and the kids are home from school – time to make room for new video games and movies (great summertime entertainment) and to be sure all battery operated devices are ready to go. What to do with those old electronics and old batteries? Here are some ideas of how to recycle these special items.

### Electronics:

Orphaned remotes, obsolete video games, miscellaneous cables and cords, printers, computers, hard drives, routers, and all those computer and electronic peripherals that don't work anymore can all be recycled at Staples® Stores for free. They will also take old ink cartridges.

### Batteries:

Household batteries, including rechargeable can be recycled at most Austin Public libraries. These batteries do not include car batteries or specialty batteries (see below).

Here is a complete list of the battery drop off locations in Austin: <http://austintexas.gov/page/battery-drop-locations>

Specialty batteries (weighing less than 11 pounds) will be accepted at The Home Depot and Lowe's® and at the City of Austin Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center. These batteries include ones that can be found in cordless power tools, cellular and cordless phones, laptops, digital cameras, two-way radios, camcorders, remote control toys and other portable electronics.

Car batteries are accepted at the City of Austin Recycle and Reuse Drop-Off Center. Most places that sell car batteries will accept them, but there may be a fee for this recycling service.

### As a special note:

Since establishing its battery-recycling program in 1999, the City of Austin has collected more than 460,000 pounds of batteries – equivalent to the weight of five Boeing 737-800 series aircraft. On average, Austin collects up to 2,000 pounds of batteries each month from residents and retailers.

### Metal and Electronic Scraps:

Austin Recycling Center pays for various metals, including wire, tin, metal, car parts etc. <http://www.recyclingcenteraustin.com/>

### Neighborhood collection project:

On a personal note, this author initiated a neighborhood co-op trip to the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center in south Austin. My neighbors saved their Styrofoam and batteries (items that were easy to transport) and I made the first trip to the center. Several neighbors contributed their Styrofoam and one brought over a box of batteries that had been collected over several years. The back of my car was

full, the time spent (travel and unloading) was only 45 minutes, and the landfill was a bit less full!

### QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS (AND THE ANSWERS):

Why can't I recycle frozen food bags and pre-washed salad mix bags in the plastics recycling bins? Frozen vegetable bags and pre-mixed salad bags have a barrier polymer added to the plastic. This keeps the frozen food from getting freezer burn and helps the salad mix stay fresher longer. However, this polymer keeps these plastic bags from being recyclable. In addition, plastic bags that have come in contact with meat products should not be placed in the plastics recycling bins.

Why can't we put pizza boxes into our blue recycling cart? Pizza boxes are made from corrugated cardboard. When the cardboard becomes soiled with grease, cheese or any other food, the cardboard cannot be recycled because the paper fibers in the cardboard cannot be separated from the oils during the pulping process. Some people take the clean cardboard top off and put it into the recycling bins. Sometimes that cardboard looks grease-free but has, in fact, absorbed some of the grease from a steamy hot pizza.

Are plastic forks recyclable? Plastic utensils are recyclable at the curb in your blue recycling cart. Be sure they are clean.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to:

[recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).



# Rebecca Realty LLC

4800 W. Frances Place



4 Bedrooms PLUS Study  
2 Full Baths PLUS 1 Powder Room  
2-Car Carport 0.22 Gorgeous Acre  
Price TBD

4702 Shadow Lane



4 Bedrooms and 3 Full Baths  
2,264 Sq.Ft. 0.44 Acre Lot  
Temperature Controlled Studio/Shed  
Huge Screened Porch  
Offered for \$875,000



Rebecca Spratlin, Broker/MBA

512-694-2191

Rebecca@RebeccaGetsResults.com

## Pricing Your Home to SELL

by Rebecca Wolfe Spratlin

One of the first things home sellers ask is, what is my house worth? It's also one of the most important components of the marketing mix when putting any home on the market. The biggest conundrum is how to price the house aggressively, without getting too aggressive. No seller wants to walk away leaving money on the table, but they also don't want to price the house so high that it scares away potential buyers or sits on the market for a long period of time. In this fast-moving sellers' market, a house that sits on the market for a long period of time will be assumed to have "issues" and will command a lower price.

Pricing is a strategy, not just a number. It's an approach to pricing that tests the market and adjusts according to the market feedback. It's fine to be aggressive with your pricing...after all, we are in a time of increasing home values...but it does no good to get crazy with the pricing. Most buyers, whether local or from out of state, whether purchasing with a mortgage or paying cash, are smart enough not to pay way above market price if they don't have to. If you are going to price aggressively, pay close attention to the market feedback you get from your showings during the first few days on the market. If you get consistent feedback that the house is overpriced AND you do not get some pretty serious nibbles in the first two weeks, have a strategy to reduce the price. When the home is priced appropriately, offers will start coming in.

Another key consideration is the appraisal. Even if there is a buyer willing to pay way over market value for a home, if the home does not appraise, the buyer's mortgage company may not approve their loan. When this happens, the buyers have a few options; they can terminate the contract and get their earnest money back, they can renegotiate the price with the sellers, or they can put extra cash down...if they have it. Cash buyers may make the appraisal a condition of the purchase and have the option to terminate the contract or renegotiate the price with the sellers.

Many sellers assume that if the house is priced too high, buyers will just bring offers anyway, at the price they think is fair. This does happen sometimes, but in recent years, more and more buyers assume the sellers are unreasonable and look elsewhere... sales opportunity lost.

The best way to price your home to is to work with a Broker who REALLY knows your neighborhood, has extensive knowledge of the properties in your market and who shows you a well-developed comparative market analysis. Keep in mind that the price you paid for your home, the money you put into it, the amount you need to get out of it, nor what you think it's worth, will determine the sale price...the house is worth only what someone is willing and able to pay for it.

# Fleas

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

Fleas are ectoparasites and females require a blood meal to produce eggs. After feeding on a host, females can produce about 30-50 eggs per day that fall off the host animal and into carpeting or other areas of the home or outside in areas where the animal frequents. Larvae feed on organic matter as well as partially digested blood excreted by the adult fleas. After fleas pupate, they hatch out of the cocoon in about 2 weeks, but pupae can remain dormant for up to 5 months waiting for a host.

A proper flea management program has two parts- managing fleas on any pets and managing fleas in the environment. A veterinarian should be consulted about flea control for pets; there are numerous products on the market that work well. Grooming the animal with a flea comb or bathing can help reduce flea numbers. When you find fleas on a pet, you most likely will need to treat the pet, inside the home and the yard. Treatment should be targeted to areas where the pet likes to hang out.

Fleas found in and around homes that do not have pets may be coming from wildlife. The attic and crawl spaces should be inspected to see if wildlife has moved into the area, bringing fleas with them. Wildlife should be removed with traps and the area treated with an insecticide labeled for fleas. After wildlife is removed, the area should be sealed so that wildlife cannot move in again.

It is also possible for new homeowners with no pets to have fleas. This usually results from previous owners having pets. Fleas can remain dormant for several months and become active again when they sense vibrations from hosts.

Inside, vacuum regularly, getting under furniture and along baseboards to reduce flea eggs, larvae and pupae. Place the vacuum bag in a sealed plastic bag and throw away in an outdoor garbage can at least once a week so fleas do not hatch out and re-infest the home. Wash pet bedding in hot water. Bathe pets regularly and use a flea comb to remove fleas. Avoid walking pets in known flea infested areas.

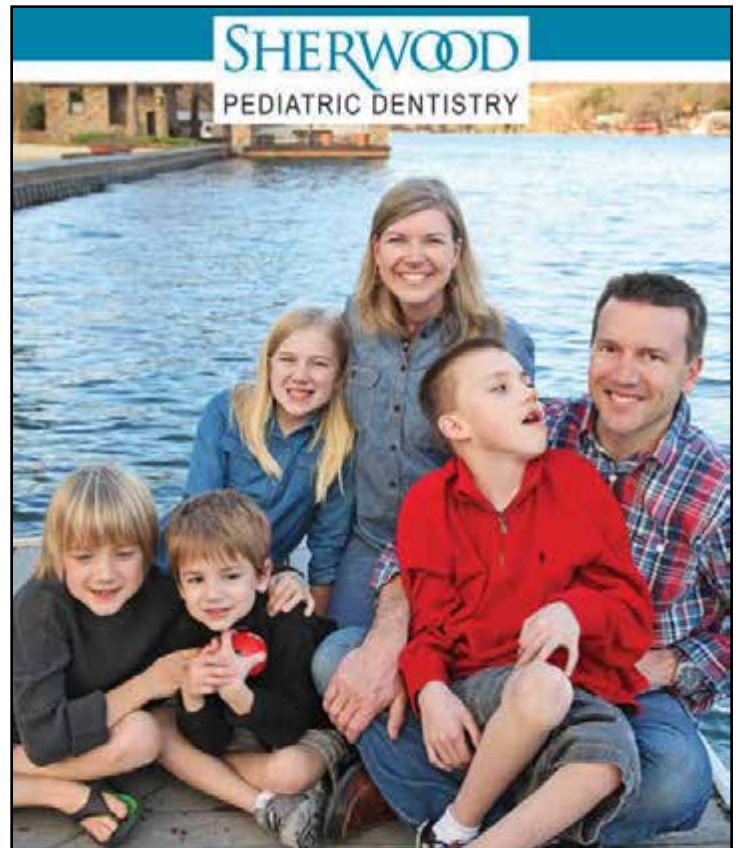
Outside, pesticide treatments should target areas where pets frequent. Full sun areas do not need to be treated as fleas will not remain in these areas.

When treating for fleas, you need to treat at least two times. The second treatment should occur 10-14 days after the initial treatment.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.



SHERWOOD  
PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

## HEALTHY SMILES ARE OUR SPECIALTY

### WHY OUR PATIENTS LOVE US:

Empowering you to play an active role in your child's dental health.

Compassionate, individual patient care for your child's needs.

Enjoy a dental team focused on creating a positive dental experience for you and your child.

Utilization of the most recent technology.

You are invited to stay with your child through the entire appointment.

Monthly payment options available, including no interest financing.

**\$50  
OFF**

Mention this and receive \$50 off New Patient cleaning, fluoride and exam. (New patients only, this offer cannot be combined with other offers, restrictions apply.)



STEPHEN SHERWOOD, DDS

CALL TODAY!  
(512) 454-6936

Visit [www.DrSherwood.net](http://www.DrSherwood.net)

# Supplemental Traffic Enforcement Efforts

A review of the Constable reports for the Supplemental Traffic Enforcement efforts in the HPWBANA area reflects that 70% of the traffic stops are of drivers who do not live in HPWBANA.

Speeding, traffic safety and crime prevention are long standing issues for HPWBANA. The supplemental patrol and traffic safety efforts were initiated last year by concerned neighbors who wanted to take a more proactive stance. With the expansion of the geographic area of responsibility of our APD District Representative last year, little neighborhood patrolling can be accomplished by APD since officers are generally going from call-to-call. It is unfortunate that the City does not provide enough support to allow neighborhood police patrolling on any regular or consistent basis. To address the patrol need and speeding issues on our streets and around the school, several residents have voluntarily funded supplemental patrolling and enforcement of speed limits within the neighborhood by a Constable. Emphasis is placed on traffic enforcement on Perry Lane, Hancock Drive (from Bull Creek Road to Balcones), Balcones Drive (from 35th Street to RM 2222), and on neighborhood patrolling.

Please note that 70% (96 out of 138) of the traffic stops in 2016 have been of people who do not live in the Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association area. Our neighbors have slowed down. Also please note that the percentage of stops for HP neighbors has decreased from 52% (52.39%--175 out of 334) at the end of October, 2015 to 30% (30.43%--42 out of 138) for mid-January to May 6, 2016.

Increased law enforcement presence should help deter vandalism, burglaries, and auto break-ins. Please consider making a donation for 1, 2, 5, or more hours of patrol time. The goal is to raise \$6,000 for 100 more hours of patrol time for the remainder of the calendar

year. To contribute to this effort, you may make an additional Traffic and Safety donation when you renew your annual HPWBANA membership or you may contact me at psybesma@austin.rr.com.

Thank you for your continued support. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to also support this effort. The current HPWBANA Board supports this initiative and has approved \$1,000 funding in the budget.

What else can you do?

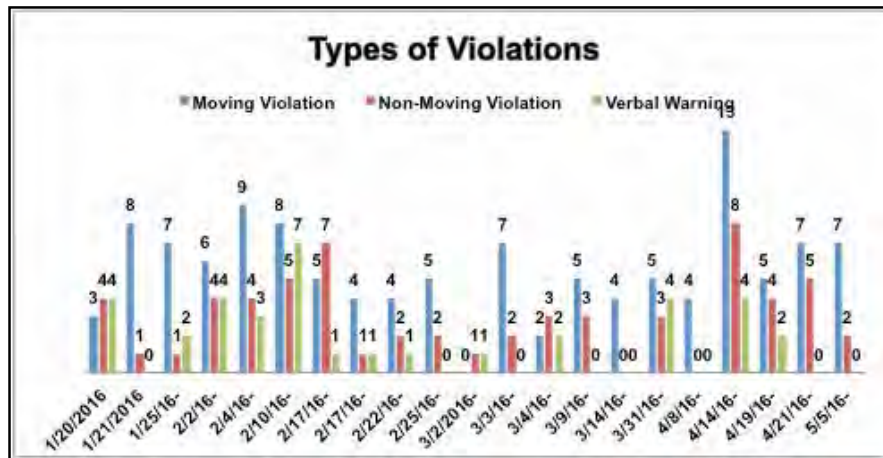
1. Be aware of the speed limits and observe them. Construction around Highland Park Elementary will continue to impact traffic.

2. Help with funding patrols by the Constable. The cost of the patrol effort is \$60/hour. To

continue the patrol efforts through the end of this year will cost around \$6,000.00 and donations are needed to meet this goal. To contribute to this effort, please contact me at : psybesma@austin.rr.com

3. Purchase a "Drive Like Your Kids Live Here"® yard sign for your yard. The yard signs are available on-line for \$15.99 each (shipping included) at [http://drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our\\_store/17/yard-sign](http://drivelikeyourkidslivehere.com/our_store/17/yard-sign)

4. And, become a member of HPWBANA, your Neighborhood Association at <http://hpwbana.org/>.



## STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

Master License: M-39722

- Water Pressure Problems
- Sewer & Drain Service
- Fiber Optic Drain Line Inspections
- Free Estimates
- Satisfaction Guaranteed

**Steve Brougner**  
**512.276.7476**



2605 Buell Ave

At no time will any source be allowed to use the HPWBANA Newsletter contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from the HPWBANA and Peel, Inc. The information in the HPWBANA Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of HPWBANA Neighborhood residents only.

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

**GO GREEN  
GO PAPERLESS**

Sign up to get this newsletter in your inbox! Visit [peelinc.com](http://peelinc.com) for details.



## NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF WATCH KIDS AROUND WATER



COLIN HOLST

22 Texas children have already fatally drowned in 2016

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

THESE WATER SAFETY TIPS CAN SAVE LIVES



WATCH KIDS & KEEP IN ARM'S REACH



LEARN TO SWIM



WEAR LIFE JACKETS



MULTIPLE BARRIERS AROUND WATER



KEEP YOUR HOME SAFER



CHECK WATER SOURCES FIRST



PRACTICE DRAIN SAFETY



BE SAFER IN OPEN WATER



LEARN CPR

BECOME a Water Guardian for your child

TAKE the Water Safety Quiz → PREVENT drowning

[www.colinshope.org/quiz](http://www.colinshope.org/quiz)

LEARN more at [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)





**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St.  
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

HP



# PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE

## MONDAY

La Salsa (under 10) 512.342.1010 – 4-9 pm  
ZuZu 512.467.9295 – 5:30-9 pm

## TUESDAY

Central Market Café 512.206.1020 – 5-9 pm  
Kerbey Lane Café 512.451.1436 – All day  
La Salsa (under 10) 512.342.1010 – 4-9 pm  
ZuZu 512.467.9295 – 5:30-9 pm

## WEDNESDAY

La Salsa (under 10) 512.342.1010 – 4-9 pm  
ZuZu 512.467.9295 – 5:30-9 pm

## THURSDAY

La Salsa (under 10) 512.342.1010 – 4-9 pm

## SUNDAY

The Frisco 512.459.6279 – 5-9 pm  
Olive & June 512.467.9898 – 5-9 pm  
Mama Fu's 512.637.6773 – All day

★ ALL DAY EVERY DAY

Blue Star Cafeteria  
512.454.7827

Gusto Italian Kitchen  
512.458.1100

*For Kids under age 12 unless indicated otherwise.. Please confirm with restaurant, offers may change. Most offers require purchase of adult meal.*



CHRISTIE'S  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

LUXURY PORTFOLIO  
INTERNATIONAL

LEADING REAL ESTATE  
COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

Trey McWhorter  
REALTOR®

512-480-0848 x 116 ofc  
512-808-7129 cell  
trey.mcwhorter@moreland.com  
www.moreland.com

