

Don's Senior's News

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Obama's Budget Asks for Sacrifice, Seniors Say "You First"

Speaking of President Obama's budget, the President submitted a \$3.77 trillion spending blueprint for 2014 that proposed steep cuts to Medicare providers and \$230 billion in cuts to Social Security benefits over 10 years achieved by switching to the chained CPI method of calculating cost of living (COLA) increases.

The President asked seniors to pay more and receive less in the name of "shared sacrifice," but seniors rightfully asked if the President is willing to do the same. As one may guess, he isn't.

Obama's spending spree continues with more so-called "stimulus" (\$50 billion) and billions in giveaways to other Democrat constituencies like unions and environmental activists. Despite Obama's promise to produce a lean budget that would reduce wasteful spending, his budget could still use a few decades at Jenny Craig, with plenty of pork to go around. [A few gems to make your head spin:](#)

- \$2 million to teach prisoners to train horses
- \$3.8 million to reduce conflicts with elephants
- \$1.5 million to study why lesbians are fat
- \$2.1 million to study what animals 'really think'
- \$85 billion in empty office space
-

No, I'm not making these up! Even Obama's own General Accounting Office has determined that the federal government wastes \$290 billion a year in unnecessary or duplicate government programs, such as the [three departments currently equipped to inspect catfish](#). And amidst all this waste Obama is asking seniors to sacrifice? Thanks to long time National Tax Limitation Committee Chairman, Lew Uhler, for highlighting and hammering away at these wasteful uses of your money.

Said 60 Plus Chairman Jim Martin, "Seniors have always risen to the challenge to help save America when called upon. We have been there through wars, disasters and economic crises of all stripes. So of course if it is necessary we take action to sacrifice again to save the financial future of our nation we will be there again.

"But when the President submits a plan that once again explodes our budget while funding trillions in waste and new taxes, seniors are not going to submit quietly while Social Security and Medicare again go on the chopping block, we say 'enough is enough. Not on OUR backs you don't!'

"So Mr. President, when you cancel \$200,000 bathroom renovations, \$325,000 grants to study robotic squirrels, and more than \$29 billion in flat-out waste and duplication identified by your own GAO, then maybe seniors will listen. And if after serious measures are taken to cut the waste, fraud, duplication and Washington-style vote buying is erased from the books, if our nation needs sacrifice on our part, we will be there."

Is it all in a Name? Ask Residents of Country Club Drive

Residents of Wisteria Lane, USA might have found their property values rising during the long run of the Desperate Housewives TV series, but they've got nothing on the people who live on Country Club Drive.

According to a University of Georgia study, the value of homes with "country" in their addresses is 4.2 percent greater than similar properties located on streets that aren't "countrified". As for those lucky people on Country Club Drive, this posh address increases the value of their homes by 9.3 percent.

As reported in the Wall Street Journal's blog, Developments, the study found that Country Club Drive sounded prestigious to those looking to impress, unlike the intersection of Lonesome and Hardup Roads, as WSJ writer Robbie Whelan points out.

But it's not necessarily all in a name.

As listing site Point2Homes suggests, it's also the ad listings that draw buyers to your Open House. A fancy address obviously helps, but so do the descriptors "exquisite," and "private" when applied to luxury properties – those listed for \$5 million or more.

For the rest of us, there's always the "dream home," which comes sixth in a list of top 100 home descriptors developed by Point2Homes in its scan of 300,000 US homes. And, of course, features such as hardwood floors and stainless steel appliances.

So, for those looking for the perfect home, scan the ads for stainless steel appliances, granite countertops and spa bathrooms. But if it happens to be located on Country Club Drive, so much the better.

Are We Cutting the Cord on Traditional TV?

In an age of constant connection – through streaming, smartphones, the Internet and tablets – the ability to watch the shows we want, when we want, is literally at our fingertips. So in this age of endless possibilities, have we cut the cord on traditional television?

Could be. More than five million homes in the US have given up expensive cable and ugly satellite dishes in favor of Internet viewing, according to a recent announcement by ratings giant, Nielsen. The company, which dubbed these viewers “Zero TV” households because they don’t fit the pattern of traditional TV households, is hoping to track them for its ratings report.

Zero viewers are still an important audience to Nielsen and advertisers. The young adults, who are most likely to live in this Zero-TV world, keep up

with *Game of Thrones* and worry about Don Draper in the new – and darker – season of *Mad Men*. They’re still watching their favorite TV shows, but in new ways, thanks to a changing industry.

Netflix, for example, recently released two shows available exclusively on its streaming website, allowing viewers to watch on demand all the series’ episodes for a fee.

Making money in the Zero-TV age is a hot topic, particularly with traditional broadcasters, who are the losers in this equation. “But that’s life,” as Joan Harris said on season three of *Mad Men*. “One minute you’re on top of the world; the next minute some secretary’s running you over with a lawnmower.” Broadcasters may lose, but TV still rules.

Quick Quiz

Each month I’ll give you a new question.

Just email me at donzahnle@gmail.com for the answer.

How fast can a sneeze travel?

Why Not Pass Me to a Friend?

If you’ve enjoyed this newsletter and found its information useful, please pass it to a neighbor, friend or co-worker.

And if you have any comments about it, don’t forget to give me a call or send me an email!

Are You Wondering How Much Your Home Is Worth?

Do you want to know how the price of your home has changed in today’s market? Do you want to know for how much other homes in your neighborhood are selling?

If you’re wondering what’s happening to prices in your area, or you’re thinking about selling your house, I can help.

Either call 404-939-1309 or [email](mailto:donzahnle@gmail.com) me for a no-obligation, professional evaluation.

I won’t pressure you into listing with me or waste your time. [Read about how I feel about pressure!](#) I’ll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

I’ll also give you the “inside scoop” on what’s happening in the housing market near where you live!

Call me at 404-939-1309 or email me at donzahnle@gmail.com and we will arrange a time to get together.

Worth Reading

Spider-Man turns 50: Why the Moody Teenage Webslinger Still Matters

By David Brothers
The Atlantic

Spider-Man, like us, is getting older. But while his narrative heads firmly into middle age, he’s still a boy. And that makes his story as relevant as ever. Peter Parker’s just a good kid, working to help his widowed aunt pay the bills. He’s bullied. He wants to be more than he is, and his desire to atone for his uncle’s death drives his superhero persona. He’s like us, in good and hard ways.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/ct2cqc>

The Bullying Pulpit

By Bill Keller
The New York Times

The Internet can breed a lot of creativity. But it can also reveal just how mean people can be. This piece, inspired by online reaction to one of Keller’s columns, suggests social media encourages bullying; a 140-character insult takes seconds to compose, but is there far longer than we’d like to think.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/c66wtdd>

Scrabble is so Annoying Now, Innit?

By Craig Brown
The Daily Mail

The first rule of Scrabble: know how to duck. Apparently, more than a million Scrabble tiles have gone missing since the game was invented. The reason; Angry players slamming the board and scattering tiles after losing. And that number should grow, especially if we’re searching for the word formed by all the Scrabble tiles produced over the years laid end to end. It would wrap around the world eight times.

More: <http://tinyurl.com/cxbdmun>

The Growing Trend to Micro/Mini Housing

Shrinking homes are a growing trend. More and more people are choosing to live in tiny houses – homes that are often less than 500 square feet.

Perhaps the state of North American real estate markets has something to do with it: In the US, the grueling past few years have left big homes empty and their owners underwater.

People are looking for ways to save on their home ownerships costs, and for some, tiny homes are the way to go.

Factors driving the tiny house craze

Actually, there are all sorts of factors at work driving the micro/mini home craze. Economically, little homes can make sense. They can cost less to

maintain; they can cost less to furnish; they probably have lower heating costs; and there is choice galore for those at the leading edge of the small-is-beautiful movement.

Mobile minis, which are on wheels, are designed to be fitted with solar panels and other green technology options.

Some companies sell do-it-yourself (DIY) plans for tiny homes, but people can also purchase pre-built homes that can be delivered straight to their plots of land.

There are also workshops available to aficionados on topics ranging from DIY construction to finding small-scale furniture for your small home.

As well, some of the mini-micro homes are designed to be added to, so if the lot will accommodate it and authorities approve, your tiny house can grow.

If a bigger small home isn't in your plans, perhaps you and your house can be part of a larger community; several tiny housing blogs discuss building communities of small homes.

Generally speaking, owners of tiny homes are singles or couples who are younger, on average, and may work in creative professions. However, anyone can be part of this growing trend. And it just may be a trend whose time has come.

Important information for Seniors

Seniors Cheer Speaker Boehner and Leader McConnell for Opposing IPAB Appointments

60 Plus Association

60 Plus Association, the nation's largest conservative seniors organization and acknowledged alternative to the liberal AARP today offered praise and thanks to Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) for informing President Obama via letter that they 'respectfully decline' to recommend names to serve on the Individual Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

<http://bit.ly/18wBgUd>

Cancer patients could face high costs for medications under ObamaCare, critics warn

Fox News

Cancer patients could face high costs for medications under President Barack Obama's health care law, industry analysts and advocates warn. Where you live could make a huge difference in what you'll pay. To try to keep premiums low, some states are allowing insurers to charge patients a hefty share of the cost for expensive medications used to treat cancer, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and other life-altering chronic diseases.

<http://fxn.ws/13daavE>

Death Tax Terry Scaring Virginia Seniors and Family Businesses

60 Plus Association

Democrat Terry McAuliffe's journey down the road to the Virginia Governor's mansion hit a major roadblock this week when voters were reminded that the onerous and unpopular Death Tax is among the many taxes he has supported raising. The Democrat hopeful voiced opposition in 2009 to then Governor Tim Kaine's repeal of Virginia's Death tax, a position which undermines his current campaign overtures to make Virginia more business friendly.

<http://bit.ly/11SGzLy>

Ask the Agent: This Month's Question

Should we buy a home for our out-of-town student?

You actually can profit in two ways from ensuring your student has a safe and comfortable place to live while studying.

Many students don't live on campus, but parents still want their kids located in a good area. Purchasing a home and renting to your student (and others, if size permits) may be the perfect solution. The location and the home itself is your choice, so you can assure yourself it's as safe as possible. And by paying rent, your student will learn about personal and financial responsibility.

It's also a great investment. As well as covering some or all of your costs, the property can be sold once it's outlived its usefulness. Look for a property close to campus for resale purposes and to reduce your student's commuting time, and ensure you work with a real estate agent who is familiar with the local neighborhoods and rental properties.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

Search for homes free at
www.AtlantaHomesOnline.com

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

Sudoku instructions: Complete the 9 × 9 grid so that each row, each column and each of the nine 3 × 3 boxes contains the digits 1 through 9. Contact me for the solution!

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Recipe: Greek Shrimp with Feta

Serves 4

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 cup chopped yellow onion
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes, or more to taste
- 2 ¼ cups chopped peeled ripe tomatoes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 ½ pounds uncooked frozen shrimp, thawed
- 4 ounces good-quality feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

Preheat broiler. On a burner, heat olive oil in an ovenproof skillet and add onions and pepper flakes.

Stir often until soft – about five minutes – and then add tomatoes and season to taste with salt and ground pepper. Lower heat and simmer sauce until slightly thickened.

Place shrimp in one layer in the skillet and spoon some sauce on top.

Continue to simmer until shrimp are pink and cooked through – about 1–2 minutes per side.

Scatter the feta on top and transfer to broiler briefly until cheese begins to melt.

Remove, sprinkle dish with parsley. serve.

