



Renee Baccaro's Real Estate Reader



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The Fall television season is just a few weeks old, but critics have already found a few favorite, new shows.

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Techies are falling over themselves to get Google Wave invites. We'll show you how to secure that coveted invitation.

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The NBA season begins in just a few short weeks. We preview several great online sources for preseason information.

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Finding The Right Neighborhood

One of the most common questions any real estate professional has to answer is, "What is the best neighborhood for me and my family?" Here are 3 things to keep in mind.

Little things are big things

When selecting a neighborhood, you may be tempted to discount a few small annoyances and focus on the big things you really like. However, when you live in a neighborhood for several years, small annoyances can really add up and soon dominate your experience in that neighborhood. Seek out a neighborhood that has a myriad of small pleasures.

Look for neighbors, not a neighborhood

When you buy a new home, you are joining a new community. Joining the right community can furnish you with trusted babysitters, reliable carpools, authentic friendships, and a support group for whatever comes your way. Find a group of neighbors you enjoy spending time with, and you can be certain that you'll enjoy the neighborhood on many different levels.

Don't obsess over numbers

Numbers are important, but selecting a neighborhood is, on some level, an emotional decision, and it should be treated accordingly. Crime statistics, school test scores, and home appreciation projections can only take you so far. Ultimately, no computer readout can make the decision for you. Trust your instincts and seek out that "a-ha moment"—the point when you know you've found a place that feels like home.

Halloween Costume Guide



Halloween is just a few weeks away. If you are among the masses of people scrambling to locate and purchase a quality Halloween costume, consider the following online resources.

Find Ideas on Twitter

<http://search.twitter.com/>

Wondering what the most popular and creative costumes are going to be this year? There's no better way to find out than to do a real-time search on Twitter for terms like "halloween costume." You can browse tweets for interesting ideas. Many tweeters even post pictures of their costumes weeks before the big day. Also, keep in mind that you don't need a Twitter account to perform a Twitter search.

Set Up a Google Alert for "halloween costumes"

<http://www.google.com/alerts>

This time of year, many newspapers and online publications post lists of the best and most popular costumes of the season. Sign up for Google Alerts and set up an alert for "halloween costume" to get these stories delivered right to your email inbox.

Rush Delivery of Costumes

www.halloweenexpress.com

Halloween Express has a huge selection of all the classics (vampires, witches, ghosts, etc.), as well as more topical, trendy items (Michael Jackson and Barack Obama). Most importantly, the majority of their orders ship the same day, which means that even if you wait until the last minute, you can probably get the costume you want in time.

New TV Shows That Critics Love

The Fall television season is only a few weeks old, and, already, some clear winners are emerging. Here are 4 new television shows critics can't stop talking about.



V Set to premiere on November 3rd, *V* is a remake of a so-bad-it's-almost-good TV series in the 1980's. While this year's remake uses roughly the same premise (alien invaders try to take over earth diplomatically, while a small resistance army attempts to foil them), the series is reportedly much scarier and much better than the original. In fact, several main-

stream reviewers have dubbed *V* "the best pilot ever created." Soon, we'll get to see what all the hype is about.

Glee Perhaps the most universally beloved show of the new season, *Glee* is part comedy, part drama, part musical, and 100% entertaining. What's most unique about this show is its unwillingness to cater to a narrow audience. While the show's musical flavor is undoubtedly likely to attract a female-skewing audience, *Glee* involves just as many quirky, yet relatable adult characters as younger characters.



Modern Family Arguably the most polished show of the new season, *Modern Family* features an all-star cast, sharp writing, and a fun style that borrows liberally from comedy icons like *The Office* and *Arrested Development*. What really makes this show pop are the characters, who are instantly recognizable and easy to laugh with.

The Good Wife If any drama from this season has a chance of joining the A-list of current drama favorites (*CSI*, *NCIS*, *House*, *Lost*, etc), it's probably *The Good Wife*. Featuring a first-rate cast led by former *ER* star Julianna Margulies, *The Good Wife* works as a standard drama, as well as an answer to a question many of us have asked while watching those all-too-common press conferences: "What must it be like to stand beside your famous politician husband as his infidelity tears your family apart?" Julianna Margulies plays Alicia, a wife to a famous politician who is embattled in a sexual scandal. As he is carted away to jail, Alicia goes back to work as a defense attorney, while struggling mightily to keep her family together.



Boost Your Brain Power

Neurologists have learned a lot about how the brain works over the past several years. Here are a few practical tips for getting the most out of your brain.

Walk and think

The human brain is designed to help us escape from predators, locate food sources, and seduce mates. All of these vital tasks have one thing in common: they require movement. Thus, the brain operates optimally while we are on the move. For most of human history, when we sat down, that was the brain's cue to take a breather. Yet, most of us do our most important reasoning and decision making while seated or stationary. If you want to give your brain a jolt, take a walk around the block, but don't exhaust yourself; the body will divert blood flow from your brain if your body begins to work too hard.

Take a vacation

When an organism (such as a human) is stressed, it initiates certain physiological processes that tend to inhibit learning. To consider an extreme example, consider how difficult it would be to read and retain this newsletter while hurling towards the earth in a crashing plane. Stress is nature's way of preparing our bodies to react quickly and forcefully—without thinking. Unfortunately, in modern life, much of what stresses us out cannot be fixed unless our brains are functioning at a very high level, allowing us to think things through. If you find yourself frequently hitting mental blocks, the best thing for you may be a vacation, which reboots your stress response and allows you to approach problems with a clear head.

Draw more pictures

For years, psychologists have written about the importance of understanding your unique learning style. Some people learn visually, some learn audibly, and so on. However, this is not entirely true. The truth is that, while every brain values auditory and visual information a little (*continued on page 3*)

Hot New Product

The Mobile Phone Jacket

Why keep your cell phone in your pocket when your cell phone could be a pocket? Finnish company Patria Aviation Oy has developed a flexible, fabric antenna that can be easily embedded in clothing. When used in conjunction with embedded speakers and GPS locators, the antenna allows your favorite shirt or jacket to function as a mobile phone/personal tracking device. Military and law enforcement agencies are likely to be among the first adopters of such technology, and many futurists believe that wearable personal communication systems will be the norm in 5-10 years.



(continued from page 2) differently, some things are constant among all human brains. For instance, every human brain responds more quickly and more thoroughly to visual stimuli than any other kind. In fact, visual stimuli take an entirely different path to the brain, which bypasses conscious filters and shoots directly to the control center of the brain. Bottom line: use pictures to absorb information and to explain ideas to yourself and others.



Tech Tip: Getting Google Wave

Google's revolutionary, new communications platform, Google Wave, was released earlier this month. However, at this point, it's an invite-only service, which has many anxious techies on the outside looking in. To secure an invite, you have a couple different options. First, you can ask Google. To petition Google for an invitation, fill out this form: <https://services.google.com/fb/forms/wavesignup/>. The second (and more certain way) to secure an invitation is to find a friend who is already a member and have them invite you. Many people are using Twitter and Facebook accounts to ask friends for Wave invites. If Google ignores your request and/or you can't find a friend to help you out, fear not—Google Wave will be available to the general public (without an invite) at some point in the future.

5 Websites to Visit Before the NBA Season Begins



The NBA Season tips off on Tuesday, October 27th. Here are several online resources designed to bring you up to speed before the season begins.

Vegas Odds

So, what do the experts think about your team's chances of winning it all in 2010? There's no better way to find out than by viewing the current betting lines in Las Vegas.

<http://www.vegasinsider.com/nba/odds/futures/>



Last Season Recap

Before you dive into all of the storylines for this season, you may want to remind yourself about all the exciting twists and turns we saw in the 2008-2009 season. Wikipedia offers a very thorough recap of each NBA season, including award winners, playoff

series recaps, and final standings.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2008-09_NBA_season



Projected Depth Charts

Wondering what the starting lineup is going to look like for your favorite team? You can access every team's projected depth chart several places online, but this is the only place we know of that allows you to see a regularly updated depth chart of every team on the exact same page—making it very easy to anticipate exciting matchups throughout the 2009-2010 season.

<http://sports.espn.go.com/nba/depth>



Offseason Acquisitions

Wikipedia also has a very good preview page for the upcoming season, where you can find a rapidly updated list of all player and coach acquisitions throughout the offseason, as well as relevant information about

broadcasting, player retirements, and rule changes.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009-10_NBA_season



Season Schedule

The 2009-2010 NBA season schedule is now available online. You can view schedules by team, date, or national TV listings.

<http://www.nba.com/teams/teamSchedulesLinks.html?title=Schedule&file=schedule/>