

# Over the Fence

NEWS FROM YOUR REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONAL...

ICON Realty

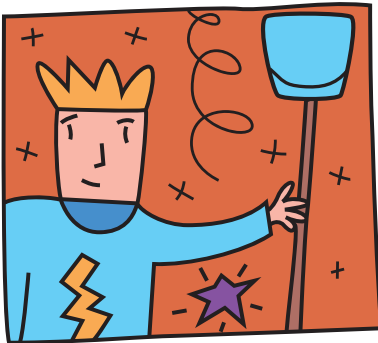


**Melissa Ramirez**  
REALTOR®  
650099

3381 E. Ruben M. Torres Blvd  
Brownsville TX  
Phone: 956-572-6401  
melissaramirezrgv@gmail.com

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## Tips on Keeping Your Swimming Pool Clean

- The best time to test the water is in the evening, before adding chemicals and again first thing in the morning to ensure it is suitable for swimming. The ideal pH level for pool water is 7.5
- Strong sunlight can reduce the amount of chlorine in a swimming pool, therefore, monitor levels closely during hot sunny spells.
- Check water at the return flow of water to the pool and add any chemicals at this point as well to ensure effective mixing with filtered water.
- Regularly clean the pool surfaces including the waterline to ensure that build up of sun-oils, algae, airborne pollution and other dirt is not left to build up. Having lots of swimmers at any given time will introduce more pollutants like body oils, perspiration, suntan lotion and so on, and you need to compensate by adding more chlorine. Encouraging pool users to shower first has merit, but welcome to the real world!
- Keep an eye out for metal parts on kids toys: if they remain in the pool, they may cause rust marks. If the plumber is working on gutting nearby, ensure that metal swarf isn't swept into the pool: rust marks are very difficult to remove!

**AUGUST HOME WARRANTY TIP:** Check the rubber water hoses on your washing machine for any sign of wear or weakness. Most manufacturers recommend replacing the hoses every 5 years. An alternative is to replace the rubber hoses with high quality stainless steel fill hoses which are more rugged.

## Celebrate National Garage Sale Day, August 8th with Your Own Yard Sale!

### Experts Say These Are the Top Sellers:

1. Clothes—especially children's clothes
2. Power Tools—saws, drills, sanders
3. Sporting equipment—golf clubs, workout equipment
4. Bicycles—especially ones ready to ride
5. Electronics—stereos, computers
6. Toys—not broken
7. Household Items—refrigerators, irons, dishes
8. Furniture—chairs, tables, beds
9. Books—especially children's books
10. Gardening equipment
11. Jewelry—watches, rings
12. Miscellaneous—wall hangings, quilts, bedding

Source: "This Way To The Garage Sale" by Don Long



## Home Maintenance QUICK FACTS:

- You can extend the life of your roof by approximately 10 years if you properly ventilate it.
- Manufacturers recommend changing furnace filters once a month during heating and cooling seasons to aid in efficiency.
- Regular maintenance on furnaces and water heaters can increase their life.
- Proper ventilation in a crawl space is necessary to prevent mold and moisture in a house.
- Sewer lines should be cleaned once every other year to prevent excess root blockage.



## August Calendar

National Water Quality Month

August 4th: National Chocolate Chip Day

August 8th: National Garage Sale Day

August 29th: More Herbs, Less Salt Day



## Make Your Own Herb Shaker (No Salt Seasoning)

- 1 tbsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- 1 tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. marjoram
- 1 tsp. thyme
- 1 tsp. dried parsley
- 1 tsp. savory
- 1 tsp. mace
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. sage

Mix all together. Use in place of salt on meats and vegetables.

Cooks.com

## FRESH HERB GRILLED CHICKEN

### Ingredients

- 4 whole chicken breasts, skinned, halved, pierced with fork
- 1/3 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 cup oil
- 2 tsp. chopped fresh rosemary or 1/2 tsp. rosemary
- 1 1/2 tsp. chopped fresh thyme or 1/2 tsp. thyme leaves
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- Salt, if desired

### Microwave-to-grill directions:

In 12 x 8-inch (2 quart) microwave-safe baking dish, arrange chicken breasts with thickest portions to outside. In small bowl, combine remaining ingredients; pour over chicken. Cover with microwave-safe plastic wrap; refrigerate 6 to 8 hours.

Prepare charcoal fire for grilling. Just before grilling, remove chicken from refrigerator; do not uncover. Microwave chicken on HIGH for 5 to 7 minutes or until edges of chicken begin to cook. Drain; reserve marinade. Immediately place chicken on grill 4 to 6 inches from medium coals. Cook 20 to 25 minutes or until no longer pink, turning once and brushing frequently with marinade. Makes 8 servings.

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**Repair, Replace, Relax** with Fidelity National Home Warranty (FNHW). A home warranty from FNHW provides both the home buyer and seller with "peace of mind" when it comes to repairs and/or replacement of a home's major systems and appliances. FNHW prides itself on superior customer service, including quick response time and efficient solutions for homeowners' problems and needs.

*If you are thinking of buying or selling a home in the near future, please call for a personal interview and property assessment with no obligation.*

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